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THESE LITTLE PIGGIES...

This year's county show at Detling put the spotlight firmly back on farming, with the best of Kent's produce, animals and agricultural expertise on show.

Animals from horses and pigs to alpacas were all on display in pens and in the main two arenas, where judges looked for the best of breed.

Thousands of visitors attended the event, which is one of the largest of its kind in the UK.

• FULL STORY AND MORE PICTURES SEE PAGE 5

■ BY ED HILL

A CORONER has heard how staff at the William Harvey Hospital faced a Catch 22 situation in treating a man who had suffered a heart attack and head injury.

Raymond Coulson, 58, from St Margaret's Bay, had been at a restaurant with friends on October 10 last year when he was taken ill.

The driving instructor collapsed outside the restaurant, hitting his head as he fell. He died four days later in the William Harvey Hospital after suffering a severe brain haemorrhage.

The investigation revolved around whether ambulance staff should have given Mr Coulson powerful clot-busting drugs known as thrombolytics when he had a head injury.

The drugs reduce blood clots in the heart, helping it to recover. However, there is a small chance they can encourage bleeding in the brain if someone has suffered head trauma.

The court heard ambulance staff concentrated on treating Mr Coulson's heart attack but could not assess his head injury despite heavy bleeding from wounds on his face and head.

Rather than take him the half-hour drive from Greatstone to the William Harvey Hospital, a paramedic met them halfway.

Graham Bailey, who has been a paramedic for 19 years, decided Mr Coulson's heart attack was so severe that he should administer a thrombolytic to break down clots in his blood.

However, he admitted it was the first time he had carried out the treatment and said he had given the patient an excess dose of an anti-coagulant drug called Heparin.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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your lifestyle

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Rural pursuits abound on special hotel breaks

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SEE OUR SISTER PAPERS **KENT ON SUNDAY** AND THE **SATURDAY EDITION** FOR ALL THE WEEKEND'S COUNTY NEWS AND SPORT

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TEAM: Ben and Karol Steele take on the part of Elizabethan servants in The History Boy

Family actors line up work for summer

MOTHER-and-son acting duo Karol and Ben Steele have a busy summer ahead of them.

After attending the premiere of the film short Sweet Dreams Are Made Of Cheese, in which the duo have minor speaking roles as Sir Lancelot and the police psychologist, the pair will be taking part in a number of film and theatre projects over the next two months.

Ben will be taking on several roles in a new comedy by The Unfinished Business theatre company called The Best Panto Ever.

Ben stars as Jack, from Jack And The Beanstalk, but who is forced to take on the role of Grumpy the Dwarf when another cast-member fails to turn up.

A week later, both Ben and Karol will be in Tyler Hill, taking part in the

■ **BY NICK AMES**

final day's filming of Kangareel's latest film production, Marty's Project.

Karol will be reprising her second role in the film, that of Kaz, make-up artist, while Ben will be playing the children's TV presenter Benj.

August will see Ben and Karol working together on The History Boy – the first in a series of six educational short films about a time-travelling boy who is sent back to the most exciting moments in English history.

In the first episode, Saving The Queen, Ben and Karol will be playing Elizabethan servant roles.

Karol said: "Both Ben and I like keeping busy, and this summer it will be especially good for Ben as it will take his mind off the long wait for his AS-level results in drama, English and media studies."

Handbag warning after thefts in town

POLICE are advising women in the Dover area to keep their bags secure after three thefts in the town.

A handbag was stolen from the Duke Of York pub and an 80-year-old woman had hers stolen near Lloyds TSB in Biggin Street, while another elderly woman had her handbag taken after she left it unattended in a café in the same area.

Two middle-aged white English men were seen acting suspiciously and it is thought they may be responsible for all three thefts.

Anyone with information is asked to phone PC Ashley Price on 01304 218110.

There's now an app to help book ferry trips

FERRY company LD Lines has become the first operator between the UK and France to introduce a free iPhone app feature to enable users to search all sailings, fares offers, product information and make bookings via the website.

The app is the latest innovation introduced by the ferry operator.

Managing director Christophe Santoni said: "We are delighted to be the first cross-Channel ferry company to pioneer this new facility to the ferry market."

"It reflects our commitment to providing competitive, fast, hassle-free transport and products."

Campaigners support daylight-saving plans

LOCAL green group Deal With It is urging people to support a campaign to gain better use of daylight.

The 10:10 Lighter Later campaign suggests a three-year trial in which the clocks in Great Britain shift forward by an hour throughout the year, – to GMT+1 in winter and GMT+2 in summer.

Single Double Summer Time was used during the Second World War.

Deal With It coordinator Rosemary Rechter, said: "The idea is simple. We would still put the clocks forward in spring and back in autumn, but we would have moved an hour of daylight from the morning to the evening, when more of us are awake to enjoy it."

"In doing so we reduce our carbon footprint and our energy bills."

Drop in for mental health-care

A **PIONEERING** medical service is providing a blueprint to tackle mental-health issues across the UK.

Dover residents have been able to seek help and advice from mental health-care professionals since a drop-in service started in the town – the first of its kind in Kent.

Sessions at the Gateway centre in Castle Street on Friday mornings are led by Sally Castle, right, and Mike Stephenson, members of the local community mental health-care team.

Anybody worried about their mental health, or that of a friend or loved one, is welcome to turn up at the Gateway between 9.30am and 11.30am on Fridays to talk in confidence with them.

Ms Castle said: "The sessions are non-medical and relaxed to enable people to discuss their concerns with



us confidentially and without stigma.

"Mental illness covers many things, including the common conditions of stress and depression."

The service is now being studied by other medical-care experts in the UK. Its success has led to Kent and

Medway Partnership NHS Trust, which provides mental health-care services in the county, to consider setting up a similar service in the Deal area over the next few months.

Mr Stephenson said: "Just having a chance to discuss their fears and to be reassured makes a lot of difference for many, but there is plenty of help for those who need more."

"We can signpost people to the right part of our service to help them through a difficult time in their lives."

"From a professional's point of view, a drop-in service is an ideal way of reaching people at an early stage of crisis and helping them find a resolution quickly."

It is calculated nationally that one in four people will have a mental illness at some stage in their lives.

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Fishermen left high and dry by reduced quotas

■ BY NICK AMES

FISHERMEN fear that they will be forced to stay in port for the rest of the year unless the Government can secure an increase in their quota.

Owners of boats along the coast that are under 10 metres long say the amount of fish they are now allowed to catch in the North Sea is not enough to survive.

They say their skate quota has ended and expect their Dover sole allowance to finish soon.

The EU has promised to reform the system in 2011 – but the fishermen say that by then it could be too late.

A recent meeting saw Euro MP Catherine Bearder put the case for the small boats to the EU and she said this was “the first step towards rebalancing this unfairness”.

Paul Joy, of the Fishermen's Protection Society, agreed that the meetings were of value, but many think it is too late.

Kent has some 100 fishing boats and the annual catch is worth about £2 million.

Folkestone has one of the highest amounts of fish landed in tonnage, with Ramsgate the highest figure in monetary value.

Restaurants, particularly in Deal, Hythe and Sandwich, pride themselves on serving fresh fish.

Fisherman Brian Hughes said: “Any EU action is too late – we will be out of business.”

Restaurants and cafés that offer fresh fish are also annoyed at the ruling, which they say will hit the tourist trade as freshly-caught fish is no longer available.



LAID UP: Dover's fishing boats could be forced to stay in port if their fish quotas are not increased by the Government

Phil Edwards says he relies on Dover sole to make a living and fears he will not be allowed to catch the species until next year.

He said: “We started off the year with a quota of a tonne a month – then that was reduced to 500kg a month and now it is going to be stopped completely.”

“We ran out of our skate quota last month. We were still allowed to catch sole, but there was so much skate in the sea you couldn't get away from it. We were having hauls where we were throwing five boxes of skate back over the side. “There's not enough in the pot to keep the small boats going.”

In previous years when smaller fishermen have come to the end of one particular quota the Government has traded another quota to

increase their allowance. Fisheries minister Richard Benyon said: “We are doing all that we can to make sure that we can [continue] swapping quotas to keep them going in the short term.”

“In the long term what we need is a complete reforming of the Common Fisheries Policy.”

EU commissioner Maria Damanaki said: “A reform is currently being prepared and will be presented in the course of 2011.”

“I am convinced that we can move to sustainable fishing and I am also convinced that we can do it in a way which allows our fishermen and their families to make a decent living from their activity and which will bring a more profitable fishing industry for our coastal regions throughout Europe.”

Mayor's thanks for band concert

DEAL mayor Ben Bano has expressed his thanks to the Royal Marines and all those involved in organising the successful concert on Walmer Green.

He said these included the Bandstand Trust, the police and the many other organisations that helped to make the event such a success.

After the event, Cllr Bano said: “The concert this afternoon was truly magnificent and drew one of the best crowds ever. We all enjoyed the band, as well as the virtuoso performances of the young soloists.”

“The service of rededication, when the names of the 11 bandmen who died in the Deal barracks bombing were read out, gave us all an opportunity for reflection on the terrible events of more than 20 years ago.”

“As I laid my wreath on behalf of the people of Deal, I was conscious that the Royal Marines will forever be in the hearts of all of us in this community.”

Cash call to build stage on green

CASH is being sought to help the volunteers at the Deal Memorial Bandstand Trust carry out plans to build a permanent performance area on the side of the bandstand facing The Strand at Walmer Green.

Dover District Council has granted planning permission for the scheme, which would avoid the current make-shift arrangement with an ugly scaffolding platform whenever the extra stage is needed.

Trust chairman John Perkins says that his members hope to be able to go ahead in October but there is a need for donations to help pay for it.

'Catch 22' for paramedics

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Because he had not seen Mr Coulson when he collapsed he was not aware of how much blood he had lost and tests showed no symptoms of a severe head injury.

When Mr Coulson got to the William Harvey Hospital, in Ashford, doctors continued to administer blood-thinning drugs, but a CT scan of his skull was not carried out until the next morning.

Mr Coulson seemed to recover and was joking about his situation when he arrived at the hospital, but his condition deteriorated the next morning.

Dr John Sewell, FRCP consultant physician at the William Harvey, who treated Mr Coulson, said the medics were caught in a Catch 22 situation.

Mr Coulson's heart attack was very severe and had to be treated. He did not believe any errors administering drugs could have affected the outcome, and a CT scan would probably not have revealed the small fracture in the patient's skull that led to the bleeding.

However, he admitted the case raised concerns about how much patients should be told about the consequences of administering a drug in an emergency.

Coroner Rachel Redman recorded a narrative verdict.

Drugs 'minder' faces nine years in prison

A POLISH drug-smuggler has been jailed for nine years after a lorry containing more than £4 million of amphetamine and cannabis was stopped at Dover.

Krystof Gabryszewski, 38, from Oldham, was not driving the vehicle when the haul was discovered hidden in a load of coffee-makers in November 2008, but he was in constant telephone contact with the man who was.

Border Agency officers found some 44 kilograms of amphetamine sulphate and 119kg of cannabis in the lorry when it was pulled over at the Eastern Docks.

Sentence

Gabryszewski denied drug-smuggling but was convicted after a trial at Canterbury Crown Court and sentenced.

Judge Nigel van der Bijl gave him nine years for amphetamine-smuggling and six years for smuggling cannabis, to run concurrently.

Malcolm Bragg, assistant director of criminal and financial investigations for the Border Agency, said: “This was a long and complex investigation and our officers are to be congratulated on their efforts in bringing Gabryszewski to justice.”



“This sentence will act as a deterrent to others involved in drug-smuggling activities.”

“Our priority must be to wipe out illegal drugs and their availability on the UK's streets.”

The driver of the lorry containing the drugs, Gracjan Zientara, 33, from Pila in Poland, was jailed for eight years in May 2009.

Mr van der Bijl told Gabryszewski: “You have been found guilty of two serious offences.”

“I will treat you as a minder. You didn't take the risk – that was taken by the driver – but clearly you watched over him.”

Anyone with information relating to smuggling should phone the customs hotline on 0800 59 5000.

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Saturday 24th July

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Friday 30th July

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Saturday 31st July

Where's My Thing

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Saturday 31st July

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Saturday 7th August

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Saturday 7th August

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Show of pride in Kentish ways

■ BY NICK AMES

THOUSANDS flocked to the Kent County Show at the weekend to enjoy a three-day celebration of the very best of the Garden of England.

Prize-winning animals, food and drink, and the latest in farming technology were all on display at the Detling showground during the county's biggest annual event.

Young farmers displayed livestock amid much talk about what lies ahead for the agriculture industry.

Changes in the traditional way of life for land workers were plain to see, from modern tractors to mobile horseshoe makers working from the back of a van. Farrier Phil Dunmall, from Yalding, said: "We change with the times. There's no longer a forge in every village. We come to those who need us."

The only complaint from visitors was about the traffic congestion, with some reportedly taking two hours to get out of the car park, while all traffic on leaving the arena was routed to the M2 roundabout which has several sets of traffic lights, causing further delays.

Why Farming Matters was the theme of the event, highlighting the importance of agriculture to the economy.

Farmers emphasised how their work was of continuing importance to the prosperity of rural Kent.

Sonia Purchase breeds Hereford cattle at her farm in Bossingham, between Folkestone and Canterbury.

She said: "Farming and agriculture is at the heart of Kent. It has been a way of life in the county for centuries and even in these difficult times provides jobs and a future for many."

"The cattle we breed are in quite short supply and we sell our pedigree animals across the UK, ensuring stocks continue to thrive. Agriculture is such a valuable resource to the county."

Teacher Francesca Rice is based at the North School, Ashford, which runs its own farm. "It gives the pupils the chance to learn of



SMALL WONDER: Holly McNicol with Domino

the relationship between the land and food," she said. Holly McNicol, 20, from Meopham, was exhibiting her rabbit, Domino, which won first prize in a small animals category.

"I help with a school's young farmers' club," she said. "Young people need to know about the importance of the land in the 21st century."

The eco-village emphasised how environmentally friendly techniques can help the countryside to be preserved as well as resources exploited in a sustainable manner.

It included food, children's toys, as well as solar and wind-powered technologies.

Vicky Whitlock organised this part of the event.

She said: "While a lot of farmers wouldn't necessarily call themselves green, they do understand how the land needs to be used properly and protected."

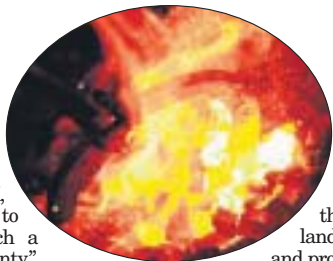
• A man was taken to hospital from the showground after being kicked by a horse. He was kept overnight for observation but released the next day.



SEEN AND HERD: Young farmers await the scrutiny of the judges after leading their cattle into the show ring



FINE BEAST: Ram with magnificent horns



HOT METAL: Taking shape at travelling forge



OLD FAITHFUL: Classic machines in tractor parade



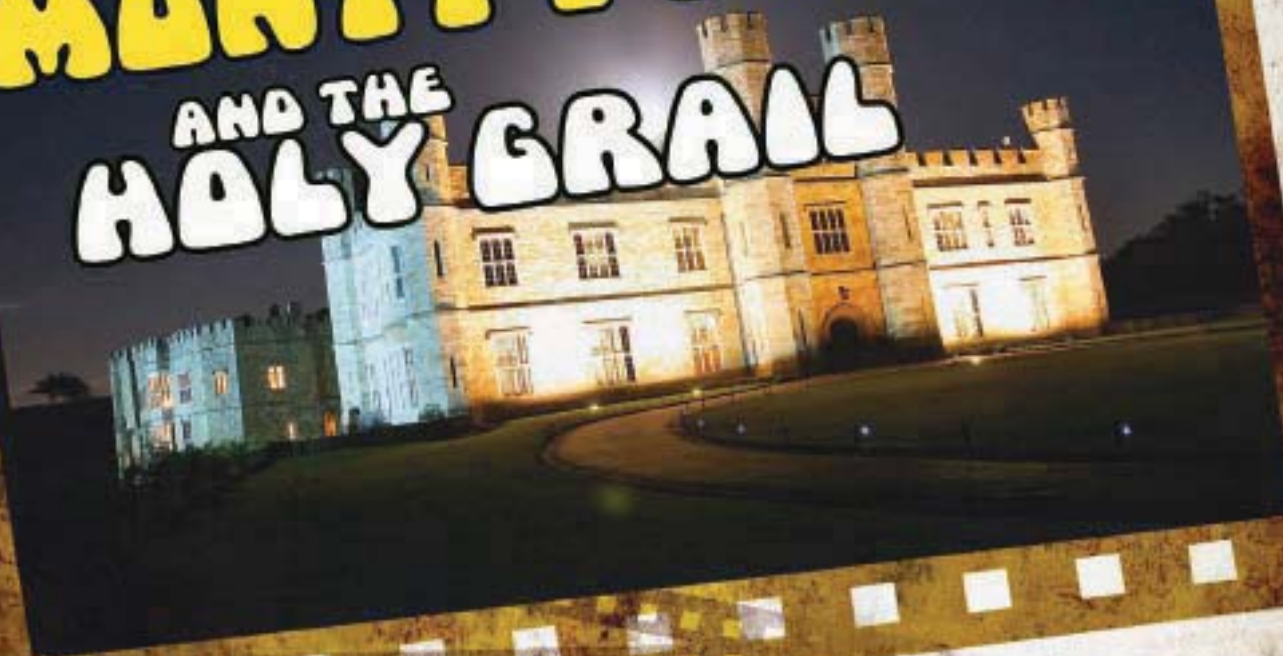
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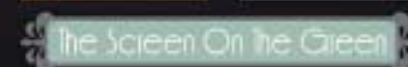
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Key to the Castle tickets are not valid for this event.



Jari plans to 'cross' Finland on his bike

CYCLIST Jari Lyden is taking a 1,300km "Long Hot Summer" ride through his Finnish homeland in a route which will mirror his country's flag.

Currently practising on a route between Folkestone and Ashford Mr Lyden is raising funds for children's educational charity PLAN.

Mr Lyden said: "I shall start on July 22 in Utsjoki and set off through the length of the country. Then I shall ride the width of Finland – at its widest point.

He hopes to be finished by July 27 – his birthday.

"It will truly be a day of celebration," he said.

To sponsor him, go to www.justgiving.com/pitkakuumakesa.



CYCLIST: Jari Lyden

Search on for Daisy

CONCERNS are growing for the whereabouts of a missing 15-year-old girl from Folkestone who has not been seen for two weeks and may be in the Dover area.

Daisy Smith was last spotted at 6pm on Thursday, July 1, at the top of the town's Old High Street, after spending the day at Folkestone Academy.

She is 5ft 4in tall, of small to medium build, with mousey-brown shoulder-length hair and hazel/green eyes.

It is thought she could be in either Folkestone or Dover.

Anyone who has seen Daisy or knows of where she might be can phone police on 01303 289180 or Missing People on 0500 700 700.

Gurkhas hit the road to aid Afghan community

■ BY NICK AMES

GURKHA soldiers have been helping clear a road that will connect impoverished parts of Afghanistan with a commercial centre.

Insurgent intimidation of villagers, improvised explosive devices and insurgent attacks have failed to halt progress as the Folkestone-based soldiers and the local community work together to clear the route for a major road – known as Route Trident.

Situated in Southern Nahr-e-Saraj in Helmand Province, the village of Walizi is on the route that links the provincial capital at Lashkar Gah to the economic hub at Gereshk and falls under the operational area of B Company, 1st Battalion Royal Gurkha Rifles.

The Coldstream Guards oversaw the construction of the first seven kilometres during Phase 1 of Route Trident before they left in April.

Now the Gurkhas are carrying on with Phase 2, which will see them provide protection to the Royal Engineers as the road is driven south, bringing freedom of movement and trade to the local population.

The dilapidated state of the old road means the journey for traffic takes hours. The ultimate



ROAD TO FREEDOM: Soldiers from B Company, 1st Battalion Royal Gurkha Rifles oversee the building of the new road

plan is to have a tarmac road, but in the meantime the construction will provide a firm and safe surface which will drastically reduce journey times.

The road is being solidly constructed using carpet-like membranes, tough plastic neo-cells and high-quality aggregates and stone. It will hold together well despite heavy vehicles and harsh weather conditions. Local people are being employed to carry out some of the work

which brings cash into the local economy.

Local taxi drivers have supported the development as they see their journeys becoming easier.

The Commander of Task Force Helmand, Brigadier Richard Felton, visited the Gurkhas and inspected progress.

He said: "Route Trident is a perfect example of how we're extending governance by improving freedom of movement."

DAY TRIPS AND TOURS

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August		
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Thursday 26th	Boulogne sur Mer	£24.00

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QUESTION & ANSWER

LOIS GADD



Q What is your role at the brewery?

A Officially, I am company secretary and a director. In reality, I do all the jobs that aren't anything to do with the brewing side of the business. My daily tasks are book-keeping, ringing round for orders and preparing delivery runs. I am also responsible for paperwork.

Q Where is the brewery based?

A In a small unit on Pysons Road industrial estate. I normally enjoy a morning ride across the fields to get to work.

Q What is your favorite tipple and why?

A Gadd's No 3 because it's a beer I can enjoy at the end of the day with my husband Eddie over dinner, when the children are finally in bed. If I'm feeling nostalgic, I'll have a Dogbolter and be transported back to the Flounder And Firkin in Holloway Road, Islington, where Eddie and I met.

Q Does location inspire your beer in any way?

A East Kent has definitely influenced the beers. Many have nautical themes and the summer seasonals are brewed to be drunk beside the seaside. The beers are Eddie's as he has the ideas and develops recipes, but I know

he's proud of Thanet, and our brewery is named after the town in which it was born.

Q Why do you think people should have a pint of Gadd's rather than other beers?

A Beer is like food in that you can taste the effort, care and attention that went into making a good pint. Staff at the brewery are passionate and dedicated to producing quality ale. With our wide selection, chances are you can find something that tickles your taste buds. The next reason I would hope people would drink our beers is the local angle. We use Kent hops, supporting the local economy.

Q You've won so many awards, is it still an honour?

A Always, as it's recognition of the quality we strive for. As most of our beer is sold directly to pubs, we don't get a lot of contact with drinkers, so awards involving public voting are particularly valued. The brewing industry is growing in Kent, so there'll be stiff competition in future – it's not a time to rest on our laurels.

Q What's the secret to producing good beer?

A You'd have to ask Eddie – I just enjoy the fruits of his labour – but he assures me a good deal of sampling of the beer, in a pub, is imperative.

Q Where do you source your ingredients?

A About 95 per cent of our hops are grown in Kent, either at Brooke Farm, Wingham, or near Canterbury. Malt is grown and malted in Wiltshire, but we're hoping to have a local farmer grow the barley, starting later this year. The water is from Thanet.

Q What can we expect in the coming years?

A More weird and wonderful brews, I hope. Eddie is the driving force on where we go next. I'm the boring one doing the paperwork and telling him how much he can spend.

Q What do you enjoy most about your job?

A The many compliments we receive from people who have tried and liked our beer.

Q What interests do you have away from work?

A We have two children, Summer, nine, and Stanley, five, who tie up a lot of my spare time. I help to run the Ramsgate branch of Woodcraft Folk, a national organisation that, in its own words, is "an educational movement for children and young people which aims to develop self-confidence and activity in society, with the aim of building a world based on equality, friendship, peace and cooperation".

Q & A

Lois Gadd of the award-winning Ramsgate Brewery talks to **Tom Betts** about the secret of good ale, why sampling the beer in a pub is essential and why the brewery's Gadd's No 3 is her favourite tipple



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Cuts put schools under threat

PLANS to redevelop school sites in Shepway hang in the balance after the Government announced savage cuts to its £55 billion rebuilding programme.

Seven schools in the district remain under threat of having their projects scrapped, after the announcement by Education Secretary Michael Gove in the Commons last week.

Those in Folkestone affected include Pent Valley, Harvey Grammar and the Folkestone School for Girls. The Brook Education Centre, a pupil referral unit in Parkfield Road, has also been hit.

The proposed move of special schools Highview in Folkestone and Foxwood in Hythe to the Brockhill Park site in Saltwood is also under threat.

'Disappointed'

Kent County Council leader Paul Carter said he was "enormously disappointed" at the news but would look at how the authority could still receive funding in future.

"We need time to take stock of our position and reflect on the announcement," he said.

"I would like to see all the people involved coming together to talk about innovative ways of revitalising secondary schools. We stand ready to offer any assistance to the Government's review panel."

Shepway MP Damian Collins has written to the schools affected and said the "best possible case" will be made to the Government about which projects should go forward:

"It is important to note that the whole programme is being reviewed by the Government to see how it can be made more efficient, and less expensive."

No word on the HG Wells story competition

A SHORT story competition being held to celebrate the works of HG Wells has failed to attract even one entry – despite the £1,000 prize.

Budding young writers were invited to send in their short stories to Reginald Turnill, a former BBC aerospace correspondent who interviewed Wells as a young reporter, creating a picture of contemporary life in Kent.

But due to what Mr Turnill now believes were too strict rules, he has had to change the entry conditions.

The 94-year-old said: "I wanted people to write the stories by hand as a condition of entry to address the low standard of literacy and handwriting these days."

"It's an important art in itself and many of our most famous authors find that's the best way to do creative writing."

"I also wanted the stories to reflect life in 2010 so they would interest readers in 2110, in the way that HG Wells' stories do."

"My aim in offering the £1,000 prize was to get people to mimic what HG Wells did in the 1900s."

■ BY MARIJKE COX

Mr Turnill said last year's HG Wells competition entries consisted mostly of sci-fi: "Last year there were plenty of entries, because the competition was open to writers of all ages and stories could include science fiction depicting ghastly invasions of our everyday lives by all sorts of nameless horrors," he said.

"This year there is a separate £250 prize for writers aged over 25, and those entries are coming in."

"But I'm afraid for the younger category my conditions have proved too difficult for our local talent and I will have to water them down."

The closing date has been extended and sci-fi stories will now be considered. Handwritten stories will get extra marks, but are not obligatory.

The competition forms part of the HG Wells festival in Folkestone, where the author – known as the father of science fiction – spent 13 years of his life.

Wells was one of the influential writers of the 20th century, famous for novels including *The War of the Worlds* and *The Invisible Man*.



FATHER OF SCIENCE FICTION: HG Wells in Sandgate where he spent 13 years of his life writing major works

He penned many of his works during his time in Sandgate, including *The History of Mr Polly* and *Kipps*, which featured scenes from the area.

But in 1909, controversy surrounding his novel *A Modern Utopia* led him and his family to move to London.

To celebrate the great author's works and mark the hundred years since he left Sandgate, Mr Turnill came up with the idea of an HG Wells festival in 2009.

Part of the event was a short story competition where a 13-year-old boy from the William Harvey Grammar scooped the prize.

But coming into its second year, the festival – which runs from September 17-19 at The Grand on the Leas in Folkestone – has been unable to attract story entries as it did last year.

The £1,000 prize is due to be presented by HG Wells' great grandson Prof Dominic Wells.

Judges include novelist Sandra Howard, the wife of former Tory leader Michael Howard.

The festival will be opened by Alex Wells, great, great grandson of HG Wells.

Download an entry form and see details about the festival at <http://www.wellsfestival.com>.

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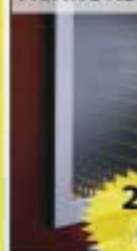
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High flyers lured by academy push

■ BY MARIJKE COX

SOME of Kent's highest achieving schools seem destined to break away from local authority control as they push to become academies.

Eleven of those rated "outstanding" by Ofsted have already started formal proceedings to become academies, just weeks after education secretary Michael Gove invited all schools to apply. Subject to parliamentary approval of the academies bill, the schools could change as soon as September.

Schools converting to academies will be given more independence and responsibility, despite remaining publicly funded. That includes the ability to set their own pay for staff, have greater control of budgets and freedom from the National Curriculum.

New figures show 95 schools in Kent and nine in Medway have expressed an interest in becoming academies. Unlike the Labour academies policy, which focused on poor-performing schools, high-achieving primaries and secondaries, including grammars, are being encouraged by the new Government to convert.

These schools will be offered a one-off £25,000 payment in the form of a conversion grant. But County Hall officials and education experts don't like it. A report to be discussed by

SCHOOLS NOW UNDERGOING FORMAL ACADEMY PROCESS

PRIMARY

Chiddingstone Primary, Edenbridge
Canterbury Primary (federation with Canterbury High)
Woodgrove Primary (federation with Westlands), Sittingbourne

SECONDARY

Castle Community College, Deal
Dartford Grammar (boys)
Fulston Manor, Sittingbourne
Highsted Grammar, Sittingbourne
Sandwich Technology
Canterbury High (federation with Canterbury Primary)
Chatham House Grammar (federation with Clarendon House Grammar), Ramsgate
Clarendon House Grammar (federation with Chatham House Grammar), Ramsgate
Hayesbrook School, Tonbridge
Westlands (federation with Woodgrove Primary), Sittingbourne

KCC's education department touched on the impact the new academy policy could have on funding and equality.

It states: "New academies should receive the same level of per-pupil funding as local authority maintained schools. However, new academies will also receive a share of the local

authority budget that provides for central services and will receive substantial top-up funding to meet additional responsibilities."

The report goes on to explain how the Government grant reduction from KCC's budget as each school moved from its control was supposed not to leave taxpayers out of pocket, but this would not happen.

"It had previously been assumed the amount deducted from Kent's budget equated to the additional grant paid to the academy. This is not the case. There is therefore an additional cost to the public purse, currently met from central government funds, for each converting school. On average, the total paid to an academy is over six times the amount deducted from KCC."

The report said the policy was not creating a

"level playing field" for schools. Last month, KCC leader Cllr Paul Carter urged head teachers to exercise "extreme caution" before agreeing to become academies because not enough information had been released.

And Andrew Somers, head of Hartsdown Technology College in Margate, said the county would have a three-tier system after the scrapping of Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme.

But independent education adviser Peter Read said it had gone further than that. "There will actually be four categories – grammars, new BSF schools, those that go without and, the fourth, academies," he said. "This means the schools that are not grammars, not refurbished, or not academies, will be at the bottom of the pile."

Teacher suspensions double in a year

THE number of teachers suspended from classroom duties in Kent has more than doubled in just a year.

Figures obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request to County Hall revealed how one teacher a week is being suspended from primary and secondary schools in Kent.

In 2008-09, the total for the year was 19, but this more than doubled in 2009-10, with 43 being temporarily taken out of the classroom. Reasons for suspensions included child protection issues, which can range from allegations of verbal abuse, unreasonable force against a pupil and, in worst cases, indecent assault.

Almost £300,000 was spent in 2009-10 providing cover for those suspended, with £260,648 the previous year and in 2007-08 – where the number of suspended teachers was 31 – £265,053. The figures did not include schools in Medway, which was unable to provide details. A Kent County Council spokesman said the authority made it clear schools should avoid suspension wherever possible, but sometimes it was unavoidable.

"Child protection suspensions are necessary when an allegation is made against a member of staff," he said. We need to make sure the allegation is fully investigated with-

out the member of staff being at work.

But teachers' unions say the majority of investigations are later dropped and there have been cases of false allegations by pupils.

Marian Darke, regional secretary for the National Union of Teachers (NUT), said she was surprised by the figures and criticised the suspension policy.

"We believe it is a problem where the tendency is to suspend teachers first, then carry out an investigation later," she said.

"The vast majority of cases are dropped and the allegations unfounded. It seems they are guilty until proven innocent."

Ms Darke said allegations can be distressing for teachers, which can lead to many not returning to the classroom.

"When it is seen that a member of staff is not at school, rumours spread and it makes it difficult for teachers to come back, even if they are innocent," she said. "The situation needs to be handled better."

Of the teachers 43 suspended in 2009-10, eight have returned to the school, 18 have not and 17 investigations are on-going.

The KCC spokesman admitted cases were often dropped: "Reaching a conclusion that an allegation is false is rare, mainly because finding proof is difficult. It can often be the word of a child against that of a teacher."

Communication is key for Kerswell

KENT County Council needs to improve its relationship with the people it serves, says the authority's new group managing director, Katherine Kerswell, pictured.

"I think Kent connects well with residents in some aspects but there's always more we can do," said the 47-year-old former Northants County Council chief, who took up her post this month.

"I want people to feel like we're on their side and to give us the benefit of the doubt. No council will ever make everyone happy but Kent is trying hard to do that. Take the pothole situation, for instance. There's been significant investment in fixing the problem but I'm sure there are lots of people who think KCC is doing nothing. But we can't receive that benefit of the doubt just by switching it on. We have to

build that relationship up, and I don't think that's ever really been tried in Kent."

Mrs Kerswell, who will earn £197,000 a year, also warned residents to expect a great deal of changes as the authority tackles a £200 million funding shortfall.

"These are challenging times for public services," she said. "Now is the opportunity to take bold steps regarding what public services could look like in the future."

"We don't yet know the full extent of the funding cuts we will have to deal with but we are working on ways to become more efficient. We will know in the autumn where the Government thinks the cuts should happen, and that's when we will start talking to residents and asking for their opinions on how things should be done."



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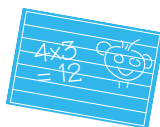


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Pride and sadness – but quite a legacy



MOVING ON: College head Stephen Jones

DOVER College head teacher Stephen Jones has been appointed Warden at St Edward's, Oxford, and will take up his post in September, 2011.

Making the announcement, Joe Sullivan, chairman of governors at Dover College, said: "Although this is bittersweet news, Stephen's appointment reflects the enormous contribution he has made to Dover College."

"His legacy will be conspicuous in the physical developments in music and drama, for example, and in the impressive academic improvements and growing self-confidence of the pupils."

"Stephen has moulded a highly professional common room and senior management team which will give a supportive foundation for the new head and real continuity for the work that he will have left."



CLASS ACT: Dover College pupils were rewarded after another year of academic success

Equipped for life at college

■ BY NICK AMES

DOVER College pupils, parents and teachers came together to celebrate the academic year's successes in the historic school's grounds.

Rear Admiral Simon Charlier, Old Dovorian and now first director of operations group of the newly-formed Military Aviation Authority, handed the prizes to pupils.

From year one in Dover College's infant and junior school to year 13 in the sixth form, prizes recognised pupils' industry, achievement, sports, art, music, poetry, internationalism and more than 20 other subjects.

During his speech, Rear Admiral Charlier commented on the fact that his years at Dover College equipped him with the skills required to face everything life could throw at him.

He went on to add that he was at Dover College at the same time as X Factor music



GUEST: Rear Admiral Simon Charlier

Festival to sending more than £10,000 to Guide Dogs for the Blind.

"Success came in many areas. This year's Young Enterprise Company saw Aimee Mullan win the Public Speaking event, Charlie-Jade Martin-Stewart the Most Improved Student; and the company Venture

mogul Simon Cowell, although he did not remember him. He said: "Simon would have been at the bottom of the food chain back then – though I wouldn't mind having a moment with him now for financial advice."

Head teacher Stephen Jones said: "Over the course of this year we have had many successes, from the wins by James Tapsell and Dan Hinchin in the Folkestone Literary

2010 took overall Best Trade Stand.

"The introduction of A-level photography to go alongside Fine Art and textiles has been a great success, but let's not forget Dover College's sporting achievements from athletics, basketball, tennis, football to the more traditional cricket and rugby."

"Dover College would not be what it is without its dedicated staff. We embody a value system based in the Church of England, but not restricted to it."

"We believe in ideals such as hard work, fairness, the equality and worth of all."

"And we articulate these values through a strong culture – the culture of this school – which places the individual pupil at the centre and encourages each one to become a better person every day, in every area of their lives."

"This is a tall order, but it is based on our deeply held belief that every pupil has it in them to be successful and deserves our complete support to achieve beyond their expectations."

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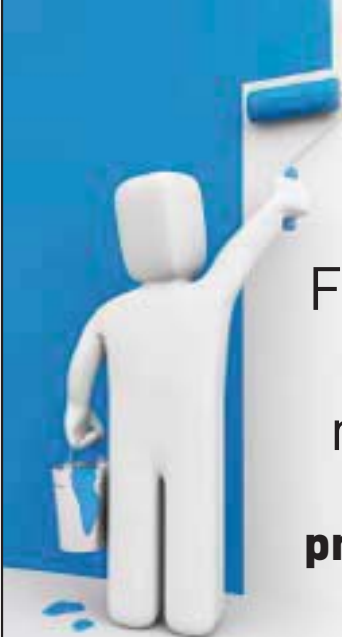
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OFF ROAD: PC Dave Greenwood stops people using off-road vehicles (left) motorcyclists are stopped by police (right)

Many roles of our motorbike police teams

NOT everyone is looking forward to the long hot days of summer.

For the Kent Police motorcycle team it isn't the most comfortable time of year, dressed in thick, black, biker's leathers and crash helmets.

But comfort isn't top of their list of priorities – whereas the safety of the public is, which means they have to go out in all weathers even if they are baking hot in the summer and freezing cold in the winter.

Kent Police has a central motorcycle team who are sent to whichever part of the county they are needed most and motorcyclists are based at stations around Kent.

Police motorcycles are needed for many functions from policing traffic at major events to attending road accidents. They are able to get through traffic jams quickly to provide assistance to those in need.

Escort

They are often used to tackle speeding or inconsiderate drivers, having both marked and unmarked motorbikes which are fitted with video recording equipment which can later be used in court.

The motorcycle team sometimes provides VIP escorts. In the past they have escorted the late Queen Mother to Walmer Castle and Prince Charles and Prince Andrew during visits to the county. They also escort visiting heads of state and if required provide funeral escorts to servicemen and women who have died serving their country.

They can also be called on to escort high value or abnormal loads. They recently escorted lorries carrying turbine blades to a wind farm on the Romney Marsh as they travelled along the motorway. They are also called upon for the fast delivery of forensic evidence from crime scenes.

PC Dave Greenwood, from the central motorcycle team, said: "One of our aims is also to educate the public regarding driving or riding. If we see a motorist who we think needs advising about their driving we will stop them and offer them advice. This could prevent an accident in the future.

"We have an enforcement role which sees us stopping speeding drivers. We also deal with drivers who are breaking the law in other ways, perhaps driving without insurance or driving dangerously."

■ BY JANE BARLOW

The team works to reduce the number of people in the county who are killed or seriously injured in road accidents. It does this by tackling speeders, those who are not wearing seat belts, careless or dangerous drivers and others who use their mobile phones while at the wheel.

The bikes they use are BMW R1200RTPs although the force also has Yamaha 450cc Enduro off-road motorbikes for which officers are given special training to ride. These are used to target off-road bikers who are causing a nuisance or breaking the law, other off-road vehicles and to search large areas of the countryside for missing people.

PC Greenwood said: "We go to areas where there have been complaints and stop people using off-road vehicles. If they are driving or riding illegally we can issue them with a warning notice, which means if they are caught again we have the power to seize their vehicle. We prosecute offenders if they do not have valid insurance and are using their vehicles on a road or in a public place. We also give safety advice, as these riders are often not wearing crash helmets or protective clothing."

The motorcycle team also runs a project called Bikesafe. This involves officers providing a one-day training course for motorcyclists, giving them tips and advice on safer riding.



Time for women to become Bishops

THE Archbishop of Canterbury's right-hand man has welcomed a decision by the Church of England's ruling body to allow the ordination of female bishops.

Bishop of Dover Trevor Willmott – who runs the Canterbury diocese in Dr Rowan Williams' absence – was a member of the steering committee that led discussions during this week's historic meeting of the General Synod.

He told KOS Media the ordination of female bishops was the next logical step following previous decisions to allow women to become priests and deacons.

"Everyone knows I'm in favour of women bishops," said Bishop Trevor. "But I'm also in favour of keeping the Church together, which is a difficult task shared by most members of the synod."

"As far as I'm concerned the Christian faith says there is no distinction between male and

female, so God is calling women to share in the ministry of the church.

"It therefore seems right and proper that they should be allowed to become bishops, and perhaps we should have been clearer on this issue when the decisions were made regarding female priests and deacons in 1987 and 1992."

"I always knew it was something we would come to eventually, and now we have."

The draft law approved by the General Synod must now receive the green light from the majority of the Church's 44 dioceses.

It must then return to the synod and receive a two-thirds majority vote, before receiving parliamentary approval and finally the Royal Assent.

Traditionalist Anglicans who opposed the move have been given minimal concessions, but leading figures in the Church say it is now inevitable that dissatisfied members will leave.

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YOUR LETTERS



When will we be on road to recovery?

I read last week's article 'Hole load more money needed for Kent roads' and it grieves me the amount of drivers who have had accidents due to unacceptable large holes still plaguing our towns and countryside.

I was approached many weeks ago by an NHS worker, who travelled every day as part of their job as a specialised nurse, visiting vulnerable people in their homes, so having a car was a crucial part of their daily profession.

Travelling along a road on February 9 the car went down a pothole which was four inches deep, 45 inches wide and 93 inches in length, causing a lot of damage to the car, split tyre, buckled wheel and damage to the suspension. KCC was advised of this accident but have failed to make any contribution to the repairs (up to now) the claim is still pending!

The public are quite aware weather conditions caused a lot of the pot holes, but constant digging up of little pieces of road and the contractors doing a shoddy job of filling in has also caused many of the road problems.

Most motorists were led to believe when Road Tax came about, the money would be used for up keeping all the roads, when are we going to see these results especially in Thanet?

Friends living in Hampshire have visited on and off for 35 years and are already reminded they are approaching Thanet because of the poor roads, it just hasn't improved in all those years.

Thanet is a forgotten part of this country, we pay our taxes and contribute the same as other areas, it is about time we had the same facilities given.

Carole Russell, Ramsgate

Academies widen gap between classes

The move towards academy schools will widen the educational gap between rich and poor.

There is no intention to properly resource schools in areas with the greatest needs under this scheme.

Under targeted policies, there would be far more assurance that lessons meet the needs of the children and society and assurance that children are not cherry-picked to make schools look good.

Education is a basic right and one that must be protected, governed properly and accountable, not privatised and made unaccountable.

your blogger

Tom Betts lets fly about his distaste for seagulls as he prepares for the coming of Gullmageddon...



I USED to think seagulls were funny, and perhaps even a little bit cool in a strange sort of way.

To me the birds seemed to have a rebellious attitude that made me laugh. I admired their pluck – but that was before I moved to Thanet.

In recent years, things have gone a little too far.

I am certain this country will soon be in the grip of these beasts, a trend it will be hard to reverse.

We may be on the verge of Gullmageddon and the UK's first seagull-related death is on the way, just you mark my words.

Residents across the isle will no doubt sympathise with my views as the gulls tear their way through rubbish sacks and spread litter across the streets – a story I have reported on in the past.

The noise is also another negative.

Every morning I am woken up by an ASBO gull flock who camp out on our roof with little more in their tiny minds than causing as much racket as possible for hours on end.

Not fun when you're nursing a hangover or in desperate need of sleep.

No, their noise is not the pleasant twittering and trilling of other birds, but an assault on the eardrums that even double-glazing cannot halt.

The shrill screeching and squawking is nice when heard every so often on a day out at the seaside but not every single day.

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the editor, Dave Mairs, on 01303 817022 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor.

And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.kentnews.co.uk.

The Government's claim that academies are raising standards is not proven.

Covert and overt admissions and exclusion practices enable academies to skew their intakes in favour of those from higher-achieving backgrounds.

Local authorities can 'direct' maintained schools to accept special needs children but can only 'ask' academies.

There is also increasing evidence of academies excluding more children than maintained schools. Furthermore, academies are not covered by general education law which means that their students and parents have fewer rights than those of schools in the maintained sector.

The sponsoring body of any academy has the power to appoint the majority of governors. Academies have high staff turnover rates, and staff in academies can be prey to discriminatory employment practices.

Teachers and support staff working in academies deserve the same protection as those working in the maintained sector.

While Michael Gove as Secretary of State for Education is slashing the rebuilding of hundreds of schools around the country he is promising extra money for any school that becomes an Academy.

The divisive nature of this highlights our concerns about the tendency towards greater social segregation.

We are also concerned that the

Government will use the October comprehensive spending review to put academies and 'free' schools at the top of the priority list.

Stuart Jeffrey, Kent Green Party

Green MEP selection is undemocratic

At the last election for the European Parliament, I voted for the Green Party not least because I thought Caroline Lucas served the South East exceptionally well as an MEP.

Now that Caroline Lucas has been elected as a Westminster MP, she has been replaced as our area's Green MEP. There was no by-election. Keith Taylor got the position, which is notoriously well remunerated, by virtue of having been second on the Green List at the last European election.

I have no particular objection to Mr Taylor. In fact just about all that I know about him is that he was Caroline Lucas' predecessor as Green candidate for the Westminster constituency of Brighton Pavilion. However, if I had been allowed to rank the Green candidates at the European election in order of preference he would not have been my second choice, simply because there were good candidates from Kent lower down the list.

Steven Campkin of the Green Party (letters, July 14) rightly objects to the shortcomings of the Alternative Vote system which the Coalition Government intends to offer us in a referendum. But the

undemocratic way in which our Green MEP has just been replaced shows that the list system used for European Elections is even worse.

Recent scandals about the expenses of Westminster MPs, many of them effectively appointed by the parties for safe constituencies, show the importance of an electoral system that allows voters to veto candidates they dislike, for whatever reason. This is impossible with the system advocated by Steven Campkin.

The Green Party has important things to say on the environment and related matters, including vital economic issues. It is a shame that they should put off electors such as myself through their misguided views on electoral reform.

Frederic Stansfield, by email

Hard lesson for those involved with BSF

Headteachers at 28 Kent secondary schools, eight special schools and four referral centres were devastated to learn that plans to rebuild their schools under the Building Schools for the Future programme had been scrapped.

The vast number of hours spent by heads and governors negotiating with officials are wasted. The hours of planning by staff to develop new methods for teaching and learning using opportunities created by purpose-designed premises will be consigned to the scrapheap.

Some special schools are required to admit children with complex physical and learning needs, but will now find it impossible to cater for these unless alternative funding can be found.

Also spare a thought for KCC officers who have worked tirelessly through the mass of red tape imposed on them, to try and ensure the best for our schools.

For the following schools in Thanet – Clarendon House Grammar, Chatham House Grammar, Foreland Special, Hartsdown Technology College, Hereson, Laleham Gap (Special), Northwood Centre, St Anthony's (Special), Stone Bay (Special) and Ursuline College; and in Gravesend – Gravesend Boys and Girls Grammars, Meopham, and St George's CofE, along with Portal House (Special) in Dover, the shock was so much greater. For in these schools building plans have nearly all been finalised and construction due to begin in the near future.

They will now have to compete for students with the gleaming new premises of those schools who have benefited from BSF.

Hartsdown is not alone in Thanet in having poor buildings and now little prospect of these being eased.

Eight newer academies already operational or in the planning stage whose replacement buildings have not begun (at an average cost of some 40 per cent more than mainstream schools), are to have any plans reviewed in the summer.

It would, however, be bizarre if many of these were upheld, as new academies converting from mainstream schools join them on an equal basis in September with no prospect of new buildings. This is a sorry end to a project that promised so much, but it is important to realise what has been achieved.

KCC leader Cllr Paul Carter has taken a personal interest in attracting maximum capital expenditure to Kent, which historically had low levels of investment in school buildings. His drive and vision means we now have new schools worth some half a billion pounds, either completed or in construction. These include all other secondary and special schools in Gravesham and Thanet through BSF (most of which are close to completion), nine academies, and six secondary schools built under separate PFI funding.

Parents in many parts of Kent will be aware of other major investments in new or replacement buildings for schools of all types.

Whatever the future holds, these remain and nearly 20 per cent of secondary schools will have been completely or substantially rebuilt; an impressive record of investment.

Whether this purge was needed in full is for others to pronounce on. I only know it must be wrong to put part of the proceeds towards the bribe to persuade mainstream schools to become academies, with another portion going to start up free schools that will often be set up to suit self-interest groups who have little interest in the education of the majority.

Peter J Read,
Independent education advisor

Team has the Hart to keep us from danger

■ BY MARIJKE COX

A CREW of paramedics trained to deliver life-saving treatment at the heart of dangerous situations has started work in Kent.

The 40-strong Hazardous Area Response Team (HART) will work with other emergency services at the centre of major incidents, where previously they would have been restricted to the sidelines.

The chief executive of the South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust (SECAmb), Paul Sutton, said it was a valuable addition.

"As an emergency service, SECAmb is of course already trained and experienced in expertly dealing with major incidents, and this will continue," he said. "However, the introduction of HART enhances that experience and capability further still."

Traditionally, ambulance crews relied on fire-fighters to make an area safe before they could access what is known as the 'hot zone' or inner cordon – potentially dangerous situations such as fire or chemical threats.

It meant that paramedics from SECAmb were unable to get to patients until it was deemed safe. In other cases, ambulance staff had to wait for the patients, in some cases needing life-saving care, to be brought to them by fire-fighters.

But following the terror attacks on London



RESCUERS AT READY: Members of Hart are trained to attend to casualties in a number of hazardous situations

on July 7, 2005, in which ambulance crews were able to work at the centre of the incident where there was no contamination, health chiefs nationwide began to roll out the HART initiative, funded by the Department of Health.

In Kent, the team of clinicians, who are based at Brookfields industrial estate in Ashford, have had intensive preparation.

As well as training in breathing apparatus and gas-tight chemical suits, each member of

the team received lessons in urban search-and-rescue and working at heights.

The crew, who now also form the ambulance service's maritime incident response team, will use specialist vehicles, including off-road 4x4s and a modern command vehicle.

Matthew England, SECAmb's HART manager, said the new team would significantly enhance the service at major incidents across Kent, Sussex and Surrey.

"It will allow patients who are trapped, or in areas previously deemed unsafe for ambulance staff to enter, the opportunity to receive clinical care at a much earlier stage than has been previously possible," he said.

"Fire crews will of course still perform their vital role, but HART clinicians will be able to remove patients from smoke-filled environments, for example, bringing high-quality care to those who urgently require it."

When not responding to HART calls, the team will provide additional support with two single response vehicles and carry out a rigorous training schedule.

Andy Parr, head of emergency preparedness at SECAmb, said the initiative would influence what happened to many patients involved in serious incidents.

"The SECAmb HART members have been working very hard over the past months to develop new skills to help in this new, exciting and necessary role."

Mum and dad still pay price

DEBT-RIDDEN youngsters who depend on their parents to bail them out have been blamed for an increase in bankruptcy among the over-55s.

According to the Consumer Credit Counselling Service (CCCS), mothers and fathers who pay off their children's student loans or help them on to the property ladder by providing money for deposits are risking insolvency themselves.

The charity says that 16.1 per cent of those who went bankrupt in Kent last year were over 55, compared with just 15.1 per cent nationally.

Equity release manager Tom Moloney said families should seek advice before deciding how to tackle large debts: "Parents are providing a lot more support to their children, but in many cases this is not manageable and they end up in serious financial trouble themselves."

"Both sides should get expert advice first to make sure the resources are there to carry the debt."

To tackle the rising trend of parents going bankrupt, the CCCS has launched the subsidiary firm CCCS Equity Release to provide free advice to people with financial problems.

Equity release allows homeowners to release money from a property worth at least £60,000 but is only available for over-55s and usually considered only as a last resort.

Mr Moloney said: "You're never going to be able to stop the bank of mum and dad, but we're here to make sure it runs OK."

The CCCS runs a free debt counselling service at www.cccs.co.uk – or phone 0800 138111 between 8am and 8pm, Mondays to Fridays.

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BATS AND MOTHS have evolved in very close relationship, although it could be said to be rather one sided as predator and prey! If you'd like to learn more about the amazing diversity, ecology and behaviour of some of the bat and moth species we might expect to find in Kent then why not come and join us at Brogdale Farm on 31st July 2010 for a fascinating evening hosted by Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre and the Brogdale Courtyard Restaurant!

BAT AND MOTH EXPERTS from around the County will be joining us to provide **FUN AND INFORMATIVE BAT WALKS**, as well as enabling everyone to get a close up look at some of our **AMAZING MOTH SPECIES**.

There will be **CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES** in the Courtyard and the restaurant will be offering, for one night only, a delicious choice of high quality, locally sourced **BBQ FOOD FROM 5PM** onwards as well as light refreshments and its fabulous **HOME MADE CAKES**.

Brogdale Collections will also be co-ordinating self guided walks giving visitors the opportunity to take a leisurely stroll around the beautiful grounds and spend time enjoying the orchards. Charges for the orchard walks are £5.00 adults, £4.50 concessions, £2.50 children and families £12.50. Entry to all other activities is free of charge.

For more information please contact Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre on 01795 532385.

Entry to the event and activities will be **FREE** but numbers will be limited for the bat walk and will need to be booked in advance. Please book early to avoid disappointment either by ringing the number above or emailing us at info@kmbrc.org.uk



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DAY & NIGHT

Carnival at flower show

ENJOY a blooming marvellous day out at the 124th Minster Flower Show on Saturday.

The show is at the Recreation Ground at 1pm and the carnival parade arrives at 2pm. There will be an appearance by Amanda Piper of Meridian TV news team. To find out more visit www.minster-in-thanet.org.uk.

Invitation to screenings

TWO films will be shown at Dover's Grand Shaft as part of the Cultural Olympiad Open Weekend programme.

Dover Arts Development presents screenings of *Supermen II* by Foreign Investment and *Revisit* by Kathy Kenny with Ron den Daas. The event runs from 1pm to 6pm on Saturday and 1pm to 5pm on Sunday. For details visit www.dadonline.eu.

Dance the years away

STEP back in time with a 1940s nostalgia dance at Birchington Village Centre at 7.30pm on Saturday.

The event is being held in aid of Demelza House children's hospice, Cats in Crisis and Animals Asia Foundation.

Tickets cost £7 in advance or £8 on the door. Entry is free for under-15s. To book call 01843 831865 or 07799 284291.

Murderer puts boot in

SEE if you can spot the villain when Margate Football Club hosts a murder mystery evening on Sunday.

The Perfectly Dreadful Murder Company presents *Foul Play*, a comic crime show set in the world of football. The event starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £8.

To book call 01843 226963.

Free ghost tours in city

CANTERBURY'S Ghost Hunter is offering free tours to residents to thank them for their support.

John Hippisley is offering free ghost tours of the city today and next Wednesday. Free spaces are limited, so call 0845 5190257 or go online at www.canterburyghosttour.com to book. More details on the website.

Music for summer night

ENJOY light music on a summer evening when Cantate Choir performs at the Memorial Theatre in Broadstairs.

The concert takes place at 6pm on Sunday and tickets cost £8. Non-members of the Sarah Thorne Theatre Club must book at least 24 hours in advance, by calling 0845 262 6263 or emailing info@sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk.

Behind scenes in TV

ASPIRING and professional actors are invited to take part in a one-day television workshop on Monday.

With two BAFTA nominations under his belt, director Tim Leandro will teach actors how to work with the camera, crew and fellow actors. The workshop at Canterbury College costs £54. To book email timleandro@btinternet.com or call 07812 475552.



Go mad for top musical acts

SOUND ISLAND FESTIVAL

Saturday, July 24, and Sunday, July 25, Quex Park, Birchington



TEN years on from the first event, the Sound Island Festival has gone from strength to strength.

Last year, global superstars the Pussycat Dolls graced the stage at Quex Park and for the 2010 event, organisers have attracted top chart names of today along with legends in their field.

So whether you are looking for the future of pop or want to revel in the sound of veteran stars performing live on stage, the festival offers two fantastic line-ups to please most tastes.

On Saturday, Madness will bring their unique brand of chaos to Quex Park, getting the crowd on their feet with some of the group's best-loved hits. The popular ska-pop band has been entertaining fans for more than 30 years, belting out unforgettable songs such as *Our House*, *Baggy Trousers*, *It Must Be Love*, *One Step Beyond*, *Embarassment* and many more.

Madness, pictured above, have their origins in a 'ramshackle' band formed in 1976, which went on to perform as The Invaders and changed its name to Madness in 1979. After a string of hits, the band split in 1986.

The re-release of *It Must Be Love* in 1991 led to a series of reunion concerts and the band's repertoire has even inspired a hit musical, *Our House*.

They will be supported by Lightning Seeds, whose hits over the years have included *Lucky*



You, *The Life of Riley*, *Marvellous* and the number one World Cup song, *Three Lions*, recorded with comedians Frank Skinner and David Baddiel.

Front man Ian Broudie has been at the heart of the music industry for decades and

not only as the creative force behind *Lightning Seeds*. He played a key role in the Liverpool punk scene in the 70s and was renowned for his creativity with alternative rock production in the 80s, before becoming a pop star in the 90s. Broudie also worked in the studio with *Echo* and the *Bunnymen* and, more recently, a new generation of indie stars in *The Coral* and *Zutons*.

Also on the bill are *The Blockheads*, who became one of the foremost bands of the New Wave era with late front man, Ian Dury, and underground punk heroes, *King Blues*.

On Sunday, X-Factor finalists JLS will headline a day of pop and R&B when some of today's best chart acts take to the stage. The talent show runners-up have stormed the charts and achieved two number one singles in the two years since they made their first appearance.

Diana Vickers, left, is also an X-Factor discovery and she made an immediate impression on both the judges and the audience, blowing them away with her unique voice. Her debut album reached the number one spot and she also topped the singles chart with *Once*.

Vickers' career has extended to musical theatre with her award-winning turn in *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*.

English rapper Chipmunk has also had a number one hit with *Oopsy Daisy* and his album *I Am Chipmunk* reached number two in the UK charts. Alex Gardner, *Rough Diamondz* and *The Score* complete the line-up for Sunday's concert.

Advance tickets cost £33.50 for the Saturday concert and £28.59 for Sunday. To book call the box office on 0871 220 0260 or 01843 292795 or go online at www.gigantic.com.



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TIME TRAVELLERS GO... ARCHAEOLOGY

Saturday, July 24, and Sunday, July 25, Dover Castle

BECOME king of the castle by taking part in Dover Castle's archaeological time travel event this weekend.

Visitors to the castle can learn more about the science of discovering the past and enjoy some exciting hands-on activities. With mummies, lost treasure and lots, the weekend will be packed with educational fun.

Children must tackle mummies and Raiders of the Lost Ark-style obstacles as they look for the treasure in the Rescue the Relic assault course, which is available from 10am to 5pm each day. Anyone with an

appetite for destruction can help to build a giant model castle, then create their own ruin by firing a siege weapon.

Experience life as an archaeologist by taking part in a mini dig, learn how to record and draw the discoveries like a professional. There is also the chance to see replica artefacts copied from finds from the Mary Rose.

Other attractions include an archaeology quest, historical games from ancient Egypt and Rome and authentic Roman crafts. To find out more visit www.english-heritage.org.uk or call 0870 333 1181.



WHITSTABLE OYSTER FESTIVAL

Saturday, July 24, to Friday, July 30, Various venues, Whitstable

SEASIDE heritage is at the heart of the celebrations at Whitstable Oyster Festival.

The annual event offers a busy programme of arts, family entertainment, heritage events and gastronomic delights.

The fun starts with the Landing of the Oysters on Saturday, followed by the colourful Oyster Parade and more entertainment.

Action men and women will show off their strength with the Mud Tug on Sunday and there are lots of activities to keep children entertained. From stand-up comedy to classical music,

people of all ages and tastes will find something to enjoy.

The heritage of Whitstable is celebrated at the festival and on Thursday afternoon, children will help to create hundreds of 'grotters', hollow mounds of sand or mud decorated with oyster shells. After the Blessing of the Waters ceremony, the grotters will be lit by candles.

Foodies will be in heaven with the EPICentre Food Fair at Whitstable Harbour this Saturday and Sunday.

For full festival listings visit www.whitstableoysterfestival.co.uk.

MUSIC IN THE GARDEN

Sunday, July 25, Redwalls, Canterbury



FORMER X-Factor finalist Ben Mills will entertain the crowds at a fundraising event this weekend.

The singer-songwriter is a patron of Kent Kids Miles of Smiles and he will be taking part in a fundraising event at Redwalls in Stodmarsh Road. Visitors can enjoy a full day of live music from 10 acts, while helping to raise money for a worthy cause at Music in the Garden.

Kent Kids Miles of Smiles helps to care for severely handicapped children and Music in the Garden will be a chance to raise valuable funds for the charity's work.

Gates open at 10.30am and Ben Mills will be appearing at 1pm. Also on the bill are Autumn Few, Luke Jackson, Radio Riot, A Thousand Lights, The Flack, 10p Short, Counterfeit Notes, Equilibrium and Broken.

Anyone who works up an appetite can take advantage of the licensed bar and a barbecue, and there will also be stalls to browse. Tickets cost £10 for adults and £5 for children aged under 12.

To book, call 01227 780796 or visit www.miles-of-smiles.org.uk or www.gigantic.com.



ELEMENTAL FIELDS

Saturday, July 24, to Saturday, July 31, Tufon House, Ashford

THE secret life of Ashford's flood plain and woodland is exposed in a new installation by artist Lee Patterson.

Presented by Stour Valley Arts, Elemental Fields features recordings taken across the two sites of Ashford floodplain and Kings Wood. The location-specific sound installation becomes an acoustic instrument to shed light on this hidden world of sound, created using solid, aerial and liquid vibrations.

Patterson has used contact microphones and hydrophones to reveal how shifts in the environment can have an impact on the sonic experience.

With his unconventional approach, Patterson enjoys a growing international reputation as a sound artist and improviser.

As part of Stour Valley Arts' education programme, children from two local schools have been working on sound mapping with artist Louise Martin. The result, Vibration Station, can be seen as part of the installation.

Elemental Fields will be launched from noon to 4pm on Saturday and will then be open from 12am to 4pm on Sunday and noon to 5pm for the rest of the exhibition.

Find out more online at www.stourvalleyarts.org.uk.



GODDESS FESTIVAL

Friday, July 23, to Sunday, July 25, Westgate Hall, Canterbury

ENTER the mystical world of giants, fairies and mythology when the Goddess Festival descends on Canterbury.

Start the weekend in style by attending the magical Summer Fairy Ball on Friday night, with live music from acclaimed musicians Nigel Shaw and Carolyn Hillyer. There will be more entertainment from Goth rock band Serpentyne, which features Maggie Sand of Alquimia, and revellers can step back in time at a medieval dance workshop. The ball starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £15.

The streets of Canterbury will be alive with colour, music and dance on Saturday when the Goddess Parade sets out from Westgate Hall at 10am, entertaining shoppers in the High Street with a variety of entertainment. Stilt walkers, magical performers, drummers, dancers and giants will all be making an appearance.

More than 65 exhibitors will take part in the market on both days and there will also be workshops and entertainment celebrating pagan art, music and beliefs.

Admission costs £6/£3 and all activities are free. To find out more visit www.goddessfestivals.co.uk



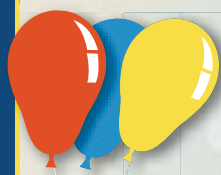


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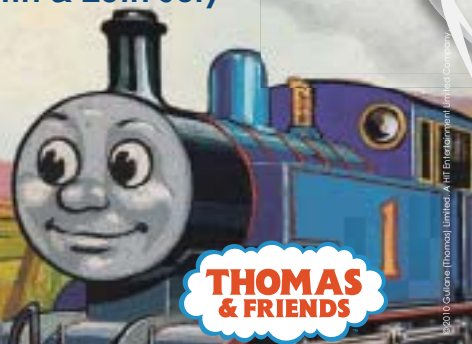


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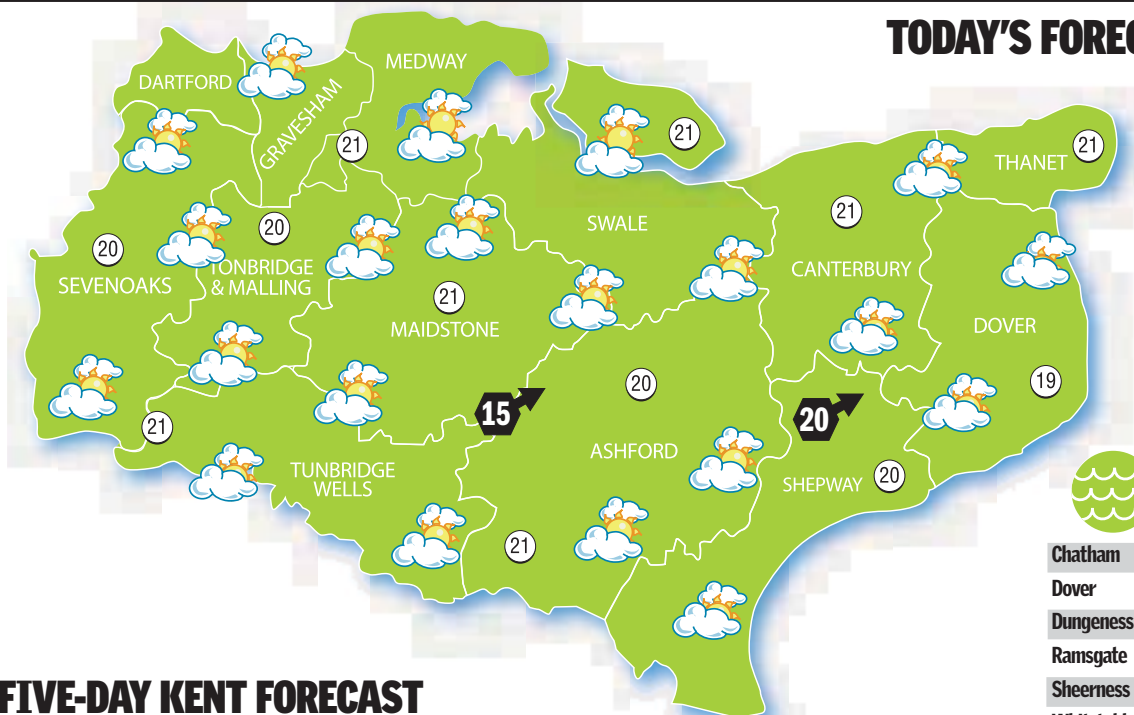
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TODAY'S FORECAST



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	25°C	Madrid	35°C
Athens	32°C	New York	33°C
Barcelona	28°C	Paris	27°C
Beijing	27°C	Rome	31°C
Bombay	30°C	Sydney	15°C
Cape Town	25°C	Tenerife	31°C
Cardiff	22°C	Tokyo	33°C
Gibraltar	25°C	Vancouver	20°C
Hong Kong	33°C	Warsaw	22°C
Las Palmas	32°C	Wellington	12°C



KENT'S WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	12:36pm 5.5m	Sunday	1:21pm 5.6m
Dover	Saturday	10:54am 6.0m	Sunday	11:36am 6.2m
Dungeness	Saturday	10:42am 6.6m	Sunday	11:29am 6.9m
Ramsgate	Saturday	11:24am 4.6m	Sunday	12:06pm 4.7m
Sheerness	Saturday	12:25pm 5.3m	Sunday	1:11pm 5.4m
Whitstable	Saturday	12:32pm 4.9m	Sunday	1:16pm 5.0m

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon											Whitstable					Saturday	12:32pm 4.9m					Sunday	11:06pm 5.0m	
Ashford	25°C	20°C	22°C	20°C	21°C	Dover	25°C	19°C	21°C	19°C	19°C	Gravesend	26°C	23°C	23°C	21°C	22°C	Sevenoaks	24°C	20°C	20°C	19°C	20°C		SUNRISE	5.02am	SUNSET	9.00pm	
Canterbury	26°C	21°C	22°C	20°C	21°C	Faversham	24°C	22°C	21°C	20°C	21°C	Maidstone	26°C	22°C	22°C	20°C	21°C	Sittingbourne	24°C	22°C	21°C	20°C	21°C						
Chatham	24°C	22°C	21°C	20°C	21°C	Folkestone	25°C	19°C	21°C	19°C	19°C	Ramsgate	26°C	21°C	22°C	20°C	21°C	Tonbridge	25°C	21°C	22°C	20°C	21°C		MOONRISE	5.50pm	MOONSET	12.33am	
Dartford	26°C	23°C	23°C	21°C	22°C	Gillingham	24°C	22°C	21°C	20°C	21°C	Rochester	24°C	22°C	21°C	20°C	21°C	Tun Wells	25°C	21°C	22°C	20°C	21°C						



SUNRISE 5:02am SUNSET 9:00pm



MOONRISE 5:50pm MOONSET 12:33am



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yourcompetition



WIN! £150 to spend at Magnolia Silver Jewellery

CELEBRATING its new store in Bluewater Shopping Centre, Magnolia Silver Jewellery is offering two lucky readers the chance to WIN £150 worth of its amazing jewellery!

Magnolia Silver Jewellery, the world's largest designer silver jewellery retailer, has just launched a brand new outlet in Bluewater Shopping Centre.

Featuring the latest must-have jewellery from stunning silver cocktail rings to beautiful bracelets, Magnolia Silver Jewellery has everything you need to take your sizzling summer look from so-so to oh wow!

Each piece of Magnolia Silver Jewellery is unique; intri-

cately handcrafted by Magnolia's 25 exclusive designers using 925 Sterling Silver, gold elements and a selection of beautiful semi-precious stones.

With over 500 stylish new pieces hitting stores each month and 3,000 unique pieces available in all stores at any given time, Magnolia Silver Jewellery is at the cutting edge of design and prides itself as the only jewellery retailer to offer one year's full warranty for free on every piece sold.

To celebrate the new outlet in Bluewater Shopping Centre, Magnolia Silver Jewellery is giving two lucky winners the chance to spend £150 each to spend at the new outlet!

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address

(if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Magnolia Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is July 30, 2010.

Question: How many exclusive designers are there for Magnolia?

No purchase necessary. For our full Terms and Conditions please visit www.kentnews.co.uk, or for a posted copy of the T&Cs call 01303 817073. If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

For further information on Magnolia Silver Jewellery please visit www.magnolia-silver.co.uk. Terms & Conditions: Two winners will receive £150 worth of vouchers to spend at the Magnolia Silver Jewellery outlet in Bluewater Shopping Centre. Vouchers cannot be redeemed at any other outlet in the UK or rest of the World. No cash alternative. Prize must be redeemed by August 31, 2010 otherwise the vouchers will become invalid. Winners will be contacted directly by Magnolia Jewellery.



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Go wild in the country as you forage for food on hotel break

■ BY TOM BETTS

OWNERS of a Kent hotel are urging guests to embrace their wild side.

Staff at the acclaimed Walleth's Court Hotel, in St Margarets-at-Cliffe, near Dover, have launched a new Hunter and Forager experience for those who want to delve deeper into the countryside.

The trips will enable guests the chance to get an authentic taste of just what is on offer in the surrounding area.

Run by experts Gavin Oakley and Peter Kelly, two men with a background in rural pursuits, the experience combines two aspects of rural life with an interesting day out.

Typically, guests stay in one of the two well-equipped outdoor teepees and are woken by the guides early for a day to remember.

At dawn the pair lead small parties into the countryside near Dover to track down and hunt game such as rabbits and pigeons.

Peter, who has represented his country at shooting, said: "It's a very interesting experience for guests. We teach them how to use the guns before actually hunting for food."

Once a few specimens have been bagged with a 12-bore shotgun, they are taken back to the hotel, where you can learn how to cook and prepare the food.

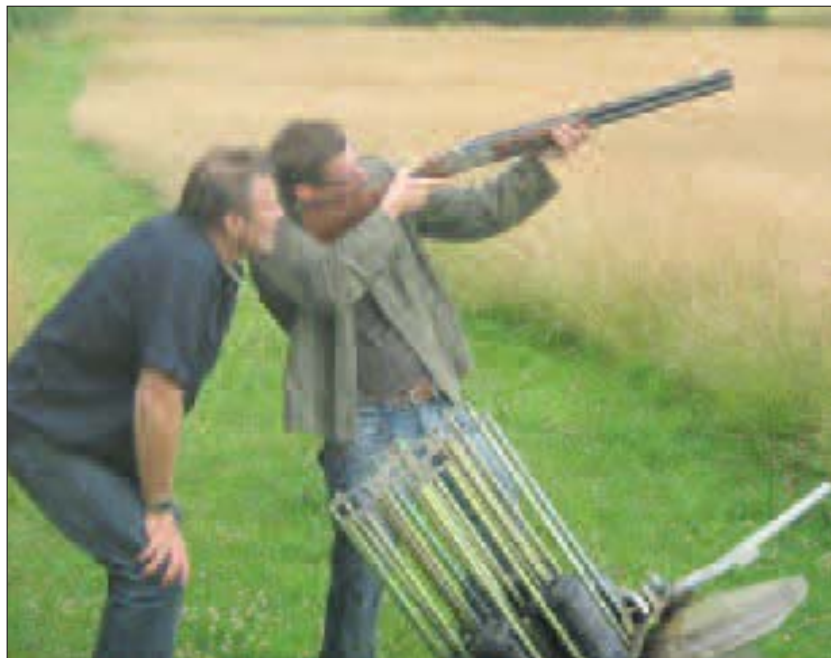
The head chef at Walleth's Court, Ryan Tasker, leads the demonstrations, which include plucking birds and skinning rabbits, before cooking up dishes such as ballotine of rabbit with summer white-truffle emulsion.

After lunch and drinks, Gavin takes over and leads out parties to forage for food.

The range of what is available soon becomes clear as the walk winds its way from the hotel, heading into the South Foreland valley across the stunning coastline, before finishing down in St Margaret's Bay, where more foraging takes place in the rock-pools.

Guests will gather fare such as wild fennel, crab apples, wild cabbage, horseradish, sea lettuce, sea beet and sea purslane along the way.

Gavin said: "The food that is available free, growing naturally, is often overlooked. It's surprising what you can find to eat right under your noses. The countryside around St Margaret's is full of delicious produce."



"For me it's really enjoyable to show people just what is here. Growing up in the area, I have learned just what can be foraged and eaten."

As with the hunting part of the day, the food that has been collected is then taken back to Walleth's Court for a foragers' supper, with dishes such as sea bream with an olive and caper sauce and crushed new potatoes with spinach and wild fennel foam with sea lettuce.

Gavin said: "Seeing some of the ingredients that you have brought back land on the table in front of you is very satisfying. It really brings home just how much we can gather from the land around us."

"We hope these trips will take off. Everyone is welcome to book. We have led some successful test excursions to see if people enjoyed it and the results have been really positive."

For more information about the Hunter and Forager break, phone the hotel on 01304 852424 or check out the website at www.wallethscourthotel.com.

FOOD FOR FREE: Clockwise from above, Tom Betts lines up a shot, guided by Peter Kelly; head chef Ryan prepares a freshly shot and skinned rabbit; the resultant ballotine of rabbit; and leaders Gavin Oakley and Peter Kelly



WANNABE CHEFS: Former World Cup footballers Carlton Palmer, Neil Ruddock, Frank Worthington and John Fashanu got highly competitive in the kitchen



YOUR TV REVIEW

COME DINE WITH ME: Channel 4, from 12.50pm weekdays
HOLBY CITY: BBC1, 8pm Tuesday

■ BY TOM BETTS

A COUPLE of years ago, when *Come Dine With Me* first appeared on our screens, I slated it.

Writing in this column, I labelled the whole thing "idiotic", but I may have been too quick to judge.

In fact, I was plain wrong because I now believe it to be a work of art.

It has spawned many imitators, as most successful TV shows do, and the inevitable celebrity version arrived quicker than you could say 'John Fashanu has just goosed Carlton Palmer'.

It is the standard episodes, though, featuring the fearless and foolhardy Great British Public, that usually work the best.

Never underestimate just how cringeworthy a 40-something estate agent wanting to impress with his pan-fried turbot and wild rocket salad can be.

Narrator Dave Lamb guides the viewer through the episode, dispensing disparaging remarks along the way, and is usually good for a few laughs.

It's an easy enough job, as the amateur cooks competing for what seems like a pretty measly £1,000 prize do more than enough to make utter plebs of themselves.

If you haven't tuned in before, then do so just once, if only to remind yourself never to hold a dinner party.

LIVING in Holby is a dangerous business. You're dicing with death every time you wake up in the fictional town.

It doesn't matter who you are – expect the grim reaper or serious

injury to come knocking sooner rather than later.

Better to stay in bed, although you're likely to become entangled in your duvet and suffocate to death.

Mind you, it might be preferable to be stabbed in the jugular falling on to a block of kitchen knives or to meet your maker by drowning face down in a bowl of cookie dough than suffer the ignominy of being admitted to Holby City General.

The staff are a horrible bunch.

Engaged in extra-marital affairs, back-stabbing and general moaning and nastiness, they make the *EastEnders* cast look like a clean-cut bunch of high moral standing.

If the NHS really is like this, then we must crack on with privatisation.

Naturally, my mother, who loves all things medical, tragic and repetitive, is addicted to it.

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 <p>VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6i CLUB, 5 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, 2001 Y Reg, 107573 miles, Silver, 3 Owners. ABS, Air conditioning, Folding rear seats, Immobiliser, Passenger airbag, Rear armrest, Radio/Cassette</p> <p>£1799</p>	 <p>FORD TRANSIT CONNECT L220d 1800cc in white. Diesel with 100k. This is the large connect with side loading door. It has been used by painters, in good condition and mechanically sound. Central locking, power steering etc. 1 former keeper.</p> <p>£3499+VAT</p>
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 <p>2001 BMW 330 CI SE Coupe in beautiful metallic blue with black leather interior. This car has done 96,000 miles it has been very well looked after and maintained the condition is at 35,000 mile car. 6 cylinder petrol engine starts and purrs beautifully.</p> <p>£5699</p>	 <p>PEUGEOT 206 1.4 GLX, 3 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, 2003 X Reg, 72000 miles, Green, 3 Owners. ABS, Air conditioning, Alloy wheels, Front armrest, Folding rear seats, Immobiliser, Passenger airbag, Rear armrest, Radio/Cassette, Side airbags</p> <p>£4295</p>
 <p>BMW 320d ES Touring estate 1995cc in grey. Diesel. Remarkable Reliable as all BMW's. Goes like a bullet.</p> <p>£5699</p>	 <p>PEUGEOT 307 1.6 Rapier, 3 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, 2003 03 Reg, 83000 miles, Metallic Blue. ABS, Air conditioning, Alloy wheels, Central locking, Folding rear seats, Immobiliser, Passenger airbag, Side airbags, Radio/CD, Towbar, Rear headrests,</p> <p>£4295</p>

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SAAB 9-3 1.9TiD Linear , 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Diesel, 2006 06 Reg , 70,763 miles, Metallic BLUE, MOT-04-2011, 2 Owners. ABS, Air conditioning, Heated door mirrors, Folding rear seats, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Steering wheel reach adjustment, 3x3 point rear seat belts, Steering wheel rake adjustment, Alloy wheels, Multi function steering wheel, Full Service History, Immobiliser, Cloth upholstery, Side airbags, Front electric windows, Electric door mirrors, Rear electric windows, Audio remote control, Cloth seat trim, Isofix child seat anchor points, Front head restraints, Passenger airbag, Remote central locking, Drivers airbag, Service indicator, Space saver spare wheel, Alarm, Front armrest, Rear armrest, Traction control, Body coloured bumpers, PAS, Trip computer, Height adjustable drivers seat, Anti theft system, Child locks. Insurance Group:12, Bluetooth phone connection**£6,295**

SAAB 9-3 1.8T Linear Sport , 4 Doors, Automatic, Saloon, Petrol, 2005 05 Reg , 63,277 miles, Metallic Grey, 2 Owners. Heated door mirrors, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Cruise control, Front electric windows, Alloy wheels, Immobiliser, Electric door mirrors, Rear electric windows, Multi function steering wheel, Audio remote control, ABS, Cloth seat trim, Front head restraints, Front fog lights, Passenger airbag, Reverse parking aid, Remote central locking, Height adjustable drivers seat, Drivers airbag, Service indicator, Cloth upholstery, Trip computer, Alarm, Body coloured bumpers, Front armrest, Part Service History, Rear armrest, PAS, Air conditioning, Central locking, Climate Control, Computer, Park distance control, Power assisted steering, Remote locking. Insurance Group:12,**£6,195**

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PROPERTY NEWS

Gap between wages and house prices stays

THERE will continue to be a gap between rising house prices and the average wage, according to a recent study.

According to James Davis, chief executive officer of Upad.co.uk, it is getting more and more unaffordable to get on to the property ladder, as potential home buyers need large deposits.

In addition, many of the young first-time buyers out there have already graduated from university with debt of around £20,000, reducing their income further still.

"If you put all those bits together, renting is an increasingly preferred form of tenure rather than going into the housing market," Mr Davis explained.

All of this means that there is now less of a taboo surrounding renting than there has been which, combined with a lack of adequate rental stock, means good news for buy-to-let investors, he concluded.

Almost two-thirds of people living in privately rented accommodation believe they are unlikely to buy their own home in the next five years, according to mortgage lender Kensington.

More choice as supply overtakes demand

HOUSE prices rose by three per cent in the first quarter of 2010, according to the latest figures.

Mortgage lender Halifax claims that the average cost of a UK home now stands at £170,111.

However, this represents a "period of broad stability" for the month of June, which saw a seasonally-adjusted rise of 0.1 per cent in the house prices, the financial group claims.

Reacting to the news, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors said that the figures back up existing evidence that supply is beginning to outstrip demand in the UK property market.

Chief economist Simon Rubinsohn explained: "It is no bad thing the price picture appears to be stabilising.

"The more important issue for the market is whether this is accompanied by a pick-up in transaction activity."

All this means that, at the moment, consumers have more choice when buying a property, which Mr Rubinsohn believes is good news for the market.



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DISASTROUS:

First-time buyers could be priced out of the property market if a cap on loan to value lending means they have to find deposits of 25 per cent for their first property

Lending cap sparks fear for those starting out

■ BY NICK AMES

SPECULATION that the Bank of England could introduce mortgage caps restricting how much people could borrow has put the spotlight on the plight of first-time buyers.

Some commentators pointed to new figures showing how few mortgages are available to those with a small deposit as evidence of lenders being more sensible.

There are fewer than 20 mortgage deals allowing people to borrow 95 per cent of their property's value (LTV), compared with some 1,000 three years ago.

George Osborne, the chancellor, has said the Bank is to be handed sweeping powers to curb City excesses and prevent another financial crisis.

It was widely reported this would include the power to restrict lending, potentially allowing the Bank to block consumers from borrowing too much.

This could, it was suggested, include restrictions on LTV ratios, so that people might be prevented from taking out a home loan for more than, say, 75 per cent of the property's value.

But any move to introduce a cap on lending in the mortgage market would be disastrous for the millions of borrowers who don't have a 25 per cent deposit, according to Hannah-Mercedes Skenfield at Moneysupermarket.com.

Based on mortgage searches made via the

website, up to 40 per cent of people looking for a home loan have a deposit of less than 25 per cent.

Meanwhile, it is estimated that about 2.5m outstanding mortgages – approximately a quarter of the total – are for more than 75 per cent of the property's value.

"Our concern is that a blanket LTV restriction will freeze the housing market for years," said Ms Skenfield. "Although LTV is a factor when making lending decisions, it is more important to factor in affordability and judge each application on its own merits.

"For many young people looking to get a foot on the first rung of the housing ladder, a deposit of perhaps £25,000 is unthinkable, especially for those saddled with student debt, yet in many cases their mortgage repayments would be similar to the rent they are paying."

Quick response to planning application praised

EVERYONE knows that you need planning permission from the local council before you can build a new property, but sometimes this can be a very long and frustrating process.

But Hillreed Homes says it was delighted when a proposed development at Loose, near Maidstone, went through within eight weeks.

"It was an exceptional turnaround and Maidstone planning office should be praised

for making such a good job of the application", said Colin Creed, managing director.

"In the South East, there is always a very strong need for homes and often developers cannot build them quickly enough to satisfy demand.

"Currently, we have several proposed sites waiting for planning permission throughout the South East", said Mr Creed.

"Many of the homes we are currently building and marketing are under offer or bought off plan and because of this pent up requirement, we are keen to have more developments in progress at any one time, but without full planning we cannot proceed.

"It is frustrating at the moment as we are well into summer and are almost running out of houses ready for immediate occupation."

IF YOU ARE THINKING OF MOVING, TAKE A LOOK AT HOMES AND DEVELOPMENTS ACROSS THE COUNTY @ yourkenttv.co.uk

Advertiser's Announcement

ROUTE 85 DOWN RAMSGATE WAY

Explore Living is launching a new-home purchasing plan to give a helping hand to first-home buyers at its award winning development New Meridian Village at the Kent coastal resort of Ramsgate. The Route 85 shared equity scheme provides a great opportunity to purchase your first home in a sought-after residence near the seaside and get a much needed leg-up onto the housing ladder.

The Route 85 purchasing plan is open to first-time buyers, and enables them to own their home outright. The scheme allows purchasers to own 100 per cent of their new home and get 15 per cent free for ten years. The 15 per cent share is funded by Explore Living on an interest-free basis to the buyer. All new home buyers need a minimum deposit of five per cent of the property's value that they are interested in and an additional £1000 to reserve their home, however some terms and conditions do apply and Route 85 is subject to availability. Explore Living can even put buyers in touch with a mortgage broker who can help arrange a mortgage for the remaining 80 per cent of the value of the property.

The Route 85 scheme is available on all one and two-bedroom apartments as well as three bedroom houses at New Meridian Village. In 2009 the development won a national award for Best Starter Home at the prestigious What House? Awards.

John Inglis, Explore Living's Sales and Marketing Director, says that as spring merges into summer the time is now right to make the most of the seaside and make Ramsgate a permanent home. "The obstacles preventing first-time home buyers have been removed by our Route 85 scheme. Our customers also get the peace of mind from knowing that while this is a shared equity scheme they do own their property outright. Thanks to the Stamp Duty threshold being raised it means first time buyers at New Meridian Village can further benefit by not paying Stamp Duty."

New home buyers looking to purchase a home in Kent are urged to come and see the show homes at New Meridian Village which is conveniently located near the coast and only a short distance from Ramsgate station which is on the high-speed rail link allowing commuters to get into London in approximately 80 minutes.

New Meridian Village has been designed with the Victorian style of Ramsgate in mind

while incorporating contemporary design and finishings. The range of one and two-bedroom apartments and three and four-bedroom houses are set out in Regency terraces and Victorian promenades.

Each property offers intelligent and innovative features including under-floor heating to the apartments, optional integrated-sound system with iPod docking station, pre-wiring for Sky+ and flat screen TVs and solid concrete floors and staircases to help eliminate squeaking floorboards.

With a large amount of landscaped green spaces rich with trees, the development has been specially designed to provide a safer, greener and altogether better environment for children and adults alike and encourages a strong sense of community between home owners. Residents of New Meridian Village will also benefit from cleverly designed 'Home Zones' where roads are laid out in such a way that discourages speeding and excessive traffic.

New Meridian Village is located on Manston Road a few minutes from Ramsgate's town centre and high street while the seafront, sports centre, and impressive marina are just a short distance away.

With Route 85, prices at New Meridian Village start from £89,246 for a one-bedroom apartment and £169,996 for a three-bedroom house. For more information, please call the Sales & Marketing Suite on 0845 872 1004 which is open Thursday to Monday between 10.00am and 5.30pm, email newmeridianvillage@exploreliving.co.uk or visit www.exploreliving.co.uk.



Pay 70% of the asking price with 30% INTEREST FREE[†]
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Littlestone £295,000

Four bedrooms, three receptions, lounge, kitchen and utility area, downstairs cloakroom, en-suite & bathroom. Garden, garage & off road parking.

New Romney Office

01797 363194



Dover Offers in excess of £90,000

Two bedroom mid terraced. Lounge, dining area, fitted kitchen & bathroom. Garden.

Kearsney

01304 823714



Dover £59,995

Two bedroom ground floor flat. The property which is in need of updating offers its new owners double glazing, communal garden and a useful outside storage shed.

Dover Office

01304 207099



Burmarsh £149,995

"Robins Nest" is a two bedroom semi detached bungalow located in the pretty semi rural village of Burmarsh.

New Romney Office

01797 363194



Dover OIEO £85,000

Two bedroom mid terraced cottage situated close to Dover town centre. The property is offered for sale with no chain.

Dover Office

01304 207099



Lydd £159,995

Three bedrooms, cul-de-sac location, farmland views, lounge, kitchen, family bathroom, garden, garage and off road parking.

New Romney Office

01797 363194



Folkestone Asking Price £180,000

Three bedroom semi detached house. Lounge/diner, kitchen, downstairs cloakroom and sun room, bathroom, garden & off road parking.

Folkestone Office

01303 250757



Folkestone £164,995

2 bedrooms, Garage en bloc, sought after west end location, chain free.

Folkestone Office

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Lydden OIEO £175,000

Three bedroom semi detached chalet style bungalow. Lounge, two bathrooms, garden access & block paved parking area.

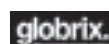
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Alkham OIEO £180,000

Two bedroom period cottage. Dining room, lounge with wood burner, fitted kitchen. Driveway & off road parking.

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£850,000

A FABULOUS EXECUTIVE STYLE PROPERTY SET IN A HIGHLY SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION.

Bairstow Eves are delighted to offer this detached four bedroom converted home to the market chain free.

With everything to offer, we urge interested parties to view early to appreciate all that is on offer. The property is set over two floors and comprises a spacious lounge with feature fire place leading to a double glazed conservatory overlooking the beautiful tree lined rear garden with patio and lawned areas leading to the outdoor heated swimming pool with sun house.

The remainder of the ground floor consists of a spacious dining room with double doors to the rear patio area, large fitted kitchen, through to the double garage.

The first floor comprises four large bedrooms that are more than substantial for double beds and other furniture, the master bedroom has an en suite shower room, the family bathroom including a bath, shower, wc and basin.



FOLKESTONE

Folkestone 01303 259211



ASKING PRICE £290,000

This detached bungalow is situated in an elevated position in a cul-de-sac offering Channel views to the front and no chain sale. The accommodation comprises: entrance porch, entrance hall, lounge, dining room (formerly bedroom three), kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom/WC and conservatory. The property has gas central heating, is mostly double glazed, garage, driveway and has mature rear gardens.



DOVER

Dover 01304 201806



£130,000

This two bedroom terrace property is offered to the market in a central location of Dover and within walking distance of all amenities and local



schools. The property is set over three floors and comprises a lounge, dining room, kitchen with access to a rear patio courtyard.

WHITFIELD

Dover 01304 201806



£275,000

This property really does have everything you need! Offered to the market chain free, Bairstow Eves are delighted to present this four bedroom



detached property in the sought after location of Whitfield. Set in a cul de sac location and backing on to fields, this property benefits a detached garage.

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£190,000

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train stations with high speed link to London.

HAWKINGE

Folkestone 01303 259211



£180,000

NO CHAIN. Four bedroom family house. Ground floor entrance/conservatory, lounge, kitchen, separate dining room, cloakroom,



bathroom, 2nd conservatory to the rear. Driveway, off road parking for several vehicles and an enclosed rear garden.

DOVER

Dover 01304 201806



£49,000

One bedroom ground floor flat. Chain free. Good sized double bedroom, bathroom and lounge with integrated kitchenette. Electric heating throughout.

DOVER

Dover 01304 201806



£115,000

This deceptively spacious three bedroom terrace house is offered to the market chain free. The property is set in the popular Tower Hamlets area.

FOLKESTONE

Folkestone 01303 259211



OFFERS OVER £92,250

This two bedroom flat in popular location is offered for sale with no chain by order of mortgagees in possession.

FOLKESTONE

Folkestone 01303 259211



£105,000

Ground floor flat with a lounge, double bedroom and a modern kitchen and bathroom. The property also has shared cellar storage and an allocated parking.

FOLKESTONE

Folkestone 01303 259211



£120,000

Self contained split level apartment with private entrance. Two double bedrooms, lounge, modern well fitted kitchen, bathroom & separate wc. Bright and airy.

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Dover £325 Per Month/Deposit £325



1 bedroom unfurnished 2nd floor self contained flat ideally situated for town centre and local amenities. This spacious well presented property comprises of entrance hallway, large lounge, double bedroom, modern fitted kitchen to include gas hob and oven, large bathroom, security entry.

Dover £750 Per Month/Deposit £750



3 bedroom 2nd floor furnished apartment in town centre location ideally situated for ferry terminal and local amenities. This tidy property comprises of entrance hallway with security entry phone system, 2 double bedrooms and 1 single, fitted kitchen to include cooker and washing machine.

Dover £413.65 Per Month/Deposit £413.65



Spacious one bedroom 3rd floor flat in town centre location. This apartment forms part of the recent Metropole conversion and comprises of entrance hallway, large lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with electric shower, double bedroom, storage heating and security entrance phone.

Dover £335 Per Month/Deposit £335



Comfortable studio flat with lift access, kitchen and bathroom, full gas central heating, good decorative order and carpets. Situated in the town centre, convenient for shops, supermarkets and ferries. MUST BE OVER 24 YEARS OLD. HOUSING BENEFIT ACCEPTED WITH GUARANTOR.

Folkestone £450 Per Month/Deposit £450



1 bedroom unfurnished 2nd floor flat close to town centre and recreational facilities. This spacious property has been newly decorated throughout and comprises of entrance hallway, good size lounge with woodland views, large double bedroom, new fitted kitchen to include electric hob.

Dover £513.08 Per Month/Deposit £513.08



2 Bedroom unfurnished 1st floor apartment in town centre location close to seaford, ferry terminal and local amenities. This well presented property comprises of entrance hall, 2 double bedrooms, lounge with tv and satellite points, modern fitted kitchen (no white goods included).

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK



Dover

£495 Per Month/Deposit £595

2 bedroom unfurnished mid terraced house situated in a residential location within walking distance of town centre and local amenities. This well presented family home is carpeted throughout and consists of a large lounge/diner, fitted kitchen to include electric cooker, family bathroom, 2 double bedrooms, patio doors leading to a good size lawned garden, full gas central heating and on road parking. HOUSING BENEFIT ACCEPTED WITH GUARANTOR . AVAILABLE AUGUST. PET NEGOTIABLE .

MORE PROPERTIES URGENTLY NEEDED !

St Margarets £700 Per Month/Deposit £700



2 bedroom unfurnished detached bungalow in peaceful sought after village location. This well presented family home has been refurbished throughout and comprises of entrance lobby, 2 double bedrooms, dining room, good size lounge, new fitted kitchen, lean to/utility room.

Rive £375 Per Month/Deposit £375



1 bedroom self contained unfurnished top floor apartment in sought after location. Situated in a well maintained modern purpose built block, this very well presented flat is in excellent decorative order throughout and consists of entrance hallway, open plan kitchen/living room.

BECAUSE WE KEEP LETTING THEM !

Folkestone £450 Per Month Deposit £450



2 bedroom unfurnished 1st and 2nd floor maisonette in close proximity to town centre, seaford and local amenities. This property is in good decorative order throughout and comprises of entrance hallway, 2 double bedrooms, modern fitted kitchen with dining area to include gas hob and oven.

Folkestone £400 Per Month/Deposit £400



1 bedroom top floor flat in popular location close to town centre, local park and recreational facilities. This property has been newly decorated with new carpets fitted throughout and comprises of entrance hallway, open plan lounge with brand new fitted kitchen to include electric hob.

Dover £430 Per Month/Deposit £430



2 bedroom unfurnished terraced house in popular residential area close to town centre and local amenities. This property has been recently redecorated throughout and comprises of 2 double size bedrooms, lounge, fitted kitchenette to include electric cooker, downstairs bathroom.

Dover £400 Per Month/Deposit £400



1 bedroom unfurnished basement flat ideally situated for town centre, docks, mainline railway station and all local amenities. This well presented apartment has been newly decorated and comprises of a double bedroom, fully fitted kitchen to include electric hob and oven.

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Closing date: Monday 26th July 2010 at noon.

Interview date: Friday 30th July 2010.

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Heard enough? Please send Cedric your CV and a covering letter setting out why you'd like to join our Board to cfrederick@avantepartnership.org.uk or marked 'Private and Confidential' to **Avante Partnership, De Gelsy House, 1 Jubilee Way, Faversham, Kent ME13 8GD**



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You will work closely with social workers to implement a joint package of care to families. This includes making home visits, attending case conferences and core group meetings.

With excellent assessment and intervention skills, you will help service users make significant changes to their substance use. Experience of working in partnership with other agencies is desirable. A background and qualification in substance misuse, nursing, counselling, social work or another relevant profession is essential.

If you would like to discuss this post further, please contact Sue Hamilton at shamilton@kca.org.uk or on 01843 298355 ext 217. Ref: 681.

Closing date: 26 July 2010 at 5.00pm.
Interview date: 6 August 2010.

Family Support Workers

2 posts • Fixed term until 31 March 2011

£22,958 - £29,236

37 hours per week • 1 post in Gravesham and 1 post in Swale

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You will be part of a community team whose aim is to improve the quality of treatment, in order to maximize the benefit to individuals' families and the local community. As a family support worker within the Horizon pilot project, you will be responsible for addressing the impact that substance misuse has on the family, including parenting and involving families and significant others in the care of service users.

You will need a professional qualification in a relevant discipline and a high level of experience working with families and the drug and alcohol field. Please quote reference number 682 (Gravesham post) and 683 (Swale post).

Closing date: 26 July 2010.
Interview date for both posts: 5 August 2010.

Finance Office Assistant

£15,039 - £16,830 pro rata per annum
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For an informal discussion regarding the role, please contact Ann Colyer, Finance Office Manager, on 01795 590795, Ref: 684.

Closing date: 23 July 2010.
Interview date: 11 August 2010.

Application forms and job descriptions for all roles can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk. You can also email recruitment@kca.org.uk or call 01795 590795 selecting option three. Please quote the relevant reference number.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity No: 292824

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Salary: £24,096 - £28,963 per annum (dependent on qualifications and experience) Medway

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CLOSING DATE: Friday 30 July 2010

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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CRICKET

BY DAVID PRITCHARD

Kent League Division One

Sandwich Town 1st XI v Ashford Town 1st XI

A CALAMITOUS batting display from Ashford Town gifted Sandwich Town the easiest of nine-wicket victories to stay firmly in the Division One promotion hunt.

The visitors arrived looking for a victory to join the contenders for a top-two finish, but their hopes disappeared with a hapless batting display. All out for 52, the result was a foregone conclusion and Sandwich took less than 17 overs to wrap up victory.

Home skipper Matthew van Poppel opted to bowl first after winning the toss and the decision looked a good one almost immediately. Ashford's top three were sent packing with just six runs on the board as Craig Spanton dismissed Simon Taylor and Luke Reeves, while Tom Chapman caught Liam Tegg off his own bowling.

Gary Sutton and Sam Kennett briefly stemmed the tide as they added 17 runs between them – Ashford's most substantial partnership – before Chapman struck again. With their tails up Sandwich's bowlers ratcheted up the pressure as the visitors came and went with alarming regularity.

The final wicket fell in only the 24th over. Spanton finished with 5 for 31, while Chapman 3 for 16 and van Poppel (2 for 2) accounted for the rest.

The only blemish in Sandwich's reply came when David Scoggins was caught by Ben Ealham off Taylor's bowling. It failed to spark the sort of panic Ashford needed and Craig Snell (33 not out) directed the hosts home with Stuart Smith (5 not out).

The win kept Sandwich third, eight points behind leaders Blackheath ahead of Saturday's trip to Whitstable.

Sandwich pacemen hit the straps in easy win



ONE-SIDED: Sandwich's batsmen had the simple task of knocking off the 53 runs needed for a crushing victory at the weekend

SCORE CARD

Ashford Town 1st XI

	Runs
Simon Taylor lbw b Spanton	1
Liam Tegg c&b Chapman	2
Luke Reeves b Spanton	2
Gary Sutton lbw b Chapman	11
Sam Kennett ct Lawrence b Spanton	8
Jason Boulter ct Snell b Chapman	1
Craig Buckham b Spanton	12
Alex Boatfield b van Poppel	9
Ben Ealham not out	1
Shane Beech b Spanton	0
Robert Dagger lbw b van Poppel	0

Extras (3lb 2w)	5
Total (all out, 23.2 overs)	52

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Craig Spanton	12	4	31	5
Tom Chapman	7	1	16	3
Matthew van Poppel	4.2	2	2	2

Sandwich Town 1st XI

	Runs
Craig Snell not out	33
David Scoggins ct Ealham b Taylor	8
Stuart Smith not out	5
Vishal Singh did not bat	
Robert Coatham did not bat	
Tom Chapman did not bat	
Oliver Robinson did not bat	
Gavin Lawrence did not bat	
Craig Spanton did not bat	
Matthew van Poppel did not bat	
Alan Amos did not bat	

Extras (2b 4b 1w)	7
Total (1 wickets, 16.4 overs)	53

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Simon Taylor	7	1	30	1
Ben Ealham	8	3	12	0
Craig Buckham	1.4	0	5	0

LOCAL CRICKET ROUND-UP

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Folkestone 1st XI v Beckenham 1st XI

AN EXCELLENT display with the ball wrapped up an emphatic 76-run victory for Folkestone against Beckenham.

Daniel Clark (68) and Himanshu Waingankar (73) provided the majority of Folkestone's score as they shared a second wicket stand worth 138. The hosts' middle order then rallied to take the home side to 205 for 8 from their 50 overs.

Michael James took two early wickets before Johan Malcolm steadied Beckenham's reply. Waingankar (4 for 22) then took over as the visitors slipped from 101 for 4 to 129 all out as Folkestone leapt clear of the bottom two and into mid-table.

Folkestone 1st XI

	Runs
David Miles	12
Daniel Clark	68
Himanshu Waingankar	73
Joshua Bryen	12
Stuart Graham	11
Andy Bray	18
Thomas Cullen	2
Ryan Hall	1
James Dawes	0
Nathan Ingleston	1
Michael James	0

Extras	(3b 2lb 2w)	7
Total	(8 wickets, 50 overs)	205

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Ashley Forde	11	1	38	1
Raza Ali Dar	15	2	38	3
Ross Willett	4	0	15	0
Ankit Patel	5	0	34	0
Johan Malcolm	15	0	75	3

Beckenham 1st XI

	Runs
Chris Isles	21
Jason Billimoria	0
Raza Ali Dar	8
Johan Malcolm	41
James Evans	12
Ollie Waite	23
Simon Evans	0
Ankit Patel	0
Richard Cashman	8
Ashley Forde	4
Ross Willett	0

Extras	(2b 3lb 7w)	12
Total	(all out, 40.4 overs)	129

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Michael James	9.4	1	22	4
Andy Bray	3	0	23	1
Ryan Hall	5	0	22	0
Himanshu Waingankar	11	4	24	4
Thomas Cullen	12	1	33	1

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Hythe 1st XI v Blackheath 1st XI

HYTHE slipped into the relegation zone after they could only take a losing draw from their meeting with league leaders Blackheath.

Zobie Sharif made the home side's bowlers toil en route to a century and he shared a big partnership with Alex Senn, who was still unbeaten at the end of the innings. Lochan Blunden finished with two wickets, but it did little to prevent Blackheath racking up an impressive score of 285 for 3.

Hythe batted well in patches, with Christopher Maurice (54) and James Watson (75) finding form. It helped avoid losing outright, but the hosts finished well short of victory.

Blackheath 1st XI

	Runs
Aaron Alley	30
Zobie Sharif	114
Alex Senn	91
Jahid Ahmed	26
Paul Valkovics	4
Jamal Patterson	0
Dipayan Paul	0
Chris Willetts	0
Matt Shepherd	0
Richard Woods	0
James Hands	0

Extras	20
Total	(3 wickets, 50 overs) 285

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Daniel Patching	12	2	39	0
Patrick Owen	8	0	38	0
Jamie Hemphrey	8	0	46	1
Lochan Blunden	15	0	95	2
Jago Pearson	7	0	51	0

Hythe 1st XI

	Runs
Christopher Maurice	54
Lochan Blunden	23
Leon Morgan	0
James Watson	75
Jon Smith	4
Tim Pichowski	22
Daniel Patching	17
Andrew Maurice	11
Jago Pearson	1
Patrick Owen	0
Jamie Hemphrey	0

Extras		10
Total	(7 wickets, 50 overs)	217

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Jahid Ahmed	10	3	25	1
Paul Valkovics	11	2	51	1
James Hands	12	1	56	1
Richard Woods	4	0	15	0
Dipayan Paul	7	0	35	2
Zobie Sharif	6	0	26	2

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Sibton Park 1st XI v Canterbury 1st XI

A HEFTY stand between Sibton Park's openers set up a comfortable seven-wicket victory against Canterbury.

Neil Kimberley (34) and Luke Samarasinghe (44) got the visitors away to a bright start, but the innings unravelled after their dismissals. Andy Allon's 4 for 23 decimated Canterbury's middle order as they stumbled to 170 all out.

Sibton Park needed a victory to stay in the promotion places and their openers duly delivered. Allon fell three short of a century, but the stand of 163 with Tim Bishop (74 not out) set up a straightforward win.

Canterbury 1st XI

	Runs
Neil Kimberley	34
Luke Samarasinghe	44
Paul Steer	16
Daniel Dolman	8
Simon Smith	15
Ryan Minter	18
Justin Macvicar	0
Tim Wren	7
Josh Staunton	2
Ben Cooper	5
Robert Walker	0
Extras	(5b 3lb 10w 3nb)
Total	(all out, 49.4 overs) 170

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Steven Rowe	11.4	3	27	1
Tim Smith	8	2	32	0
Sam Newman	10	0	41	2
Gareth Meers	7	0	39	2
Andy Allon	13	5	23	4

Sibton Park 1st XI

	Runs
Tim Bishop	74
Andy Allon	97
Steve Hobbs	0
Ben Allon	0
Tom Payne	0
Steve Hickmott	0
Martin Wren	0
Steven Rowe	0
Sam Newman	0
Gareth Meers	0
Tim Smith	0

Extras	(1lb)	1
Total	(3 wickets, 36.3 overs)	172

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Ryan Minter	5	1	20	0
Justin Macvicar	4	1	15	0
Robert Walker	9	0	42	0
Tim Wren	9	3	37	0
Ben Cooper	6.3	2	26	3
Luke Samarasinghe	4	0	31	0

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR

Rodmersham 1st XI v Betteshanger Colliery Welfare 1st XI

JOFFY and Clive Towe hit half-centuries but Betteshanger Colliery Welfare could only finish with a losing draw in a high scoring game against Rodmersham.

Kevin Jones and Dave Cogger got the home side off to a great start and they had amassed 211 runs by the time both were out. Cogger (102 not out) went on to complete his century as Rodmersham declared with one over to spare.

Betteshanger's batsmen provided a sturdy response with a series of substantial partnerships. Clive Towe top-scored with 58 not out, but the innings ran out with the visitors 25 runs short.

Rodmersham 1st XI

	Runs
Kevin Jones	84
Dave Cogger	102
Dylan Emmett	33
Michael Jones	21
Darren Nokes	8
Sam Blackwell	2
Robert Horne	0
Matthew Jewiss	0
Michael Willis	0
Chris Ansley	0
Karl Reeves	0

Extras	(8b 16lb 4w 1nb)	29
Total	(4 wickets dec, 49 overs)	279

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Andrew McNicholas	7	1	53	0
Jamie Towe	8	0	51	0
Michael McNicholas	15	5	57	1
Clive Towe	15	1	72	1
Liam Collins	4	0	22	2

Betteshanger Colliery Welfare 1st XI

	Runs
Liam Collins	37
Joffy Towe	52
Jamie Towe	13
Andrew McNicholas	40
Clive Towe	58
Michael McNicholas	20
Darren Fletcher	1
Martin Jones	5
Steve McNicholas	2
Edward Dadd	0
John Brayne	0

Extras	(4b 2lb 15w 6nb)	27
Total	(8 wickets, 51 overs)	255

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Chris Ansley	5	0	29	0
Darren Nokes	12	0	65	1
Dylan Emmett	12	0	60	2
Matthew Jewiss	13	1	42	4
Kevin Jones	8	1	39	1
Michael Willis	1	0	14	0

Triallists give Whites boss something to think about

FOOTBALL

BY TOM HOWARD

FORMER Welling midfielder Sam Cutler could be in line to join Dover Athletic as a replacement for Sammy Moore, who has completed a move to AFC Wimbledon.

Dover boss Martin Hayes revealed Cutler was one of four players he was seriously looking at to join the club and the midfielder featured in Dover's 4-1 pre-season friendly win at Faversham Town on Saturday.

The Whites are in the market for a central midfielder after Moore, who spent two seasons at Crabble, signed for Conference side AFC Wimbledon at the weekend.

Potential replacement Cutler, who has featured for Grays Athletic and Weymouth in the Conference, played 45 minutes against Colchester last week and played a further 45 minutes against Faversham. Reports from his former club Welling, where he spent the back end of last season, suggest he is poised to join the Whites.

Hayes said: "Sam is one of three or four we are seriously looking at and

has plenty of experience at this level.

"He has come down here to show us what he can do and did okay in the first game. Welling have said he is joining us, but we are only talking to him at the moment. We are also looking at a couple of wide men and strikers."

A host of triallists took part in the 4-1 win at Faversham on Saturday, which saw Hayes field two different teams for each half.

Former Bromley winger Luke I'Anson opened the scoring after heading in Adam Birchall's cross. The Whites doubled their lead just before the half hour mark when Joe Tabiri's driven cross was deflected in by Matt Latham.

Ex-Dover player Andrew Miller pulled one back for Faversham just after the break, but Dover showed their dominance with a third goal from the resulting kick-off when Jon Wallis' corner was headed in at the near post by former Bristol Rovers striker Ben Hunt.

The Whites wrapped up the win when triallists Anton Jack and Kevin Borrey combined with the latter scoring the fourth goal. Oliver Bartram, Mark Cornielle, Jordan Anderson, Jackson Ohakam and Elliot Charles all featured as triallists in the game.

Dover hosted Ryman Premier League side Maidstone United in a pre-season friendly at Crabble last night. Log on to www.yourdover.co.uk for a full report.



Picture: SIMON HARRIS

ON THE LOOKOUT: Dover boss Maryin Hayes ran his eye over a number of triallists including Luke I'Anson, pictured, who scored at Faversham

FOOTBALL



Picture: LOGO KUPCO

DAUNTING: Neil Cugley's Folkestone have a tough start

Cugley eyes tough season for Invicta

THE magnitude of the task facing Folkestone Invicta this season was brought home to manager Neil Cugley when the Ryman Premier fixtures were released last Friday.

After winning promotion via the play-offs last season, the Seasiders begin on August 21 at home to Croydon Athletic, who just pipped them to the Ryman South title.

The first six games also sees them play Aveley, Sutton United and Kingstonian, who all reached the play-offs last season, plus Tonbridge Angels and Ryman North champions Lowestoft Town.

With Invicta constrained while they pay off their debts, Cugley is operating on a tight budget this season and is aware of the difficulties that lie ahead.

He said: "I think seeing the fixtures make it seem more real. You stand there looking at them and even my missus said the start looks hard.

"You suddenly realise that in your first few games you've got Tonbridge, Lowestoft and Sutton, who I think will be in the play-offs, Croydon who have been bankrolled and Aveley were in the play-offs last year.

"It does bring it home to you but the one thing I'm hoping is the players aren't frightened and go in with confidence. We have nothing to lose and hopefully we can enjoy it."

Invicta began their pre-season games away to Faversham Town last night but the players had a run-out against Canterbury City on Saturday, winning 5-0.

Only Micheal Everitt was unavailable for last night's game against the Kent League champions, with the midfielder on his honeymoon. The club are looking into arranging a friendly this weekend, but nothing had been confirmed by the time this paper went to press.

Cugley said: "It doesn't matter too much, we've still got quite a few games coming up so I'm not desperate to get something sorted."

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Ex-F1 ace Johnny Herbert helped raise funds for the Henry Surtees Foundation at Buckmore Park

Golfers impress as both last the course at Open

GOLF

PRINCE'S and Royal Cinque Ports had extra reasons to be glued to the Open Championship last weekend as both had golfers who made the cut.

Zane Scotland, attached to Prince's in Sandwich, and Steven Tiley, who plays out of Deal's Royal Cinque Ports, held their own at St Andrews after coming through qualifying.

Returning to the Open Championship 11 years after his debut, Scotland ended his tournament with a birdie at the last hole on Sunday to secure himself a share of 55th place.

Opening rounds of 70 and 74 saw Scotland comfortably make the cut and he celebrated his 28th birthday on Saturday with a level-par 72. A 74 on Sunday saw him finish the tournament on two-over-par, banishing the memories of his previous Open appearance when he missed the cut at Carnoustie in 1999.

Tiley, who lives in Herne Bay, ended up two shots further back in a share of 68th place after an eventful four days.

The 27-year-old's first round could scarcely have gone better. Taking advantage of the rare calm conditions on the Old Course, he shot a bogey-free round of 66 to claim a share of third place on six-under-par.

The weather took a turn for the worse in Friday's second round, with play suspended for more than an hour due to high winds.

Playing in the final group, Tiley had to finish his round on Saturday morning, carding a seven-over-par 79, but it was still



Picture: ADY KERRY

SUCCESS OFF TO A TEE: Zane Scotland, pictured, and Steven Tiley impressed at St Andrews

good enough to make the cut. Rounds of 73 and 74 represented a respectable finish to give Tiley, like Scotland, hope of a strong second half to the season.



Picture: LOGO KUPCO

ON TARGET: Craig Thompson, right, equalised for Hythe

Hythe begin warm-up with victory over Lydd

FOOTBALL

GOALS from Craig Thompson and Jamie Pickering saw Hythe Town come from behind in their first pre-season friendly to beat Lydd Town 2-1.

With eight first-team players unavailable, Hythe manager Scott Porter was forced to call up several reserves for the short trip down the coast.

Lydd had several ex-Hythe players in their side and one of them, Scott Bouvier, put the home side in front after just five minutes.

Summer signings Gary Mickelborough and Brendon Cass both got a run-out up front for Town, but it was Thompson who came up with the equaliser with a powerful finish. Pickering then struck late on to pinch a narrow victory.

Hythe were in action at home to Whitstable Town last night and continue their preparations with a trip to County League side Hollands & Blair this Saturday.

Town have been handed a tough start to the new Kent League season when it gets under way on August 7. Porter's men begin away to VCD Athletic, who finished in the top half of the Ryman North last season, but were demoted due to problems with their home ground.

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